

Insider's promotion 'wrong answer' to critics

New Telecom chief dismays Ministers

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Ministers are understood to be dismayed at the rapid appointment of Mr Iain Vallance, chief executive of British Telecom, to succeed Sir George Jefferson as chairman.

After the sustained criticism of BT over recent months they see the swift elevation of Mr Vallance, an insider and Sir George's No 2, as sending the wrong message to the outside world.

Ministers at the Department of Trade and Industry believe that the BT board should have delayed the appointment and looked openly for an experienced, high-profile outsider who could have come in untainted by past criticisms and have started afresh.

They do not question Mr Vallance's abilities, but fear

that his appointment will be interpreted by the public as a sign of complacency on the part of the BT board and a reluctance to acknowledge the shortcomings of the existing service.

The board is known to have approached a number of senior industrialists privately about the chairman's job but it is understood that none was keen to take on what is fast becoming a highly sensitive position as head of the flagship of the Government's privatization programme.

Ministerial concern at Mr Vallance's appointment is a tacit acknowledgement of

about overcharging continues (Tony Dawe writes).

In the wake of *The Times* reports which showed how faulty telephone lines and metering equipment could be earning BT extra millions of pounds, scores of subscribers have pledged to take action against the company rather than pay excessive bills.

Mr Derek Barrett, an insurance consultant from Worthing, West Sussex, has threatened BT with litigation as his telephone bills continue to rise although he has checked the use of his telephone has been reduced.

The Times has explained how those faults can lead to extra charges without the customer's knowledge. While saying that *The Times* articles were exaggerated, BT has refused to comment on those particular faults because it is impossible to quantify them.

Indeed, the company told Mr Barrett that it could find no evidence that his bills were incorrect. But after he provided proof of crossed lines, the company agreed to credit him to retain his "goodwill". But it limited the credit to £20 for 500 over-charged units and £68.20 for a year's rental of one line.

Mr Nigel Palmer is planning to form an action group of subscribers on the Middle Woodford exchange in Wiltshire.

Mr David Heister, of Callog, of Putney, west London, said: "We have seen examples from all over the country of overcharging being identified by call-logging equipment. BT will refuse to recognize it officially but the company's engineers do seem prepared to study the reports in producers and take action when necessary."

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their fear that BT's poor performance is tarnishing the Government's entire privatization programme.

It will intensify the efforts of Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, to ensure that when the Central Electricity Generating Board and area boards are privatized they are not done so in a way which replicates the monopolistic empire of BT.

The Prime Minister and other senior Cabinet ministers are to meet on Monday to discuss strategy for privatizing electricity.

However, the ministerial concern also undermines the accusations of opposition MPs that Sir George was "pushed by the Government to save embarrassment."

Senior sources at the Department of Trade have insisted that there was absolutely no government interference.

British Telecom is facing legal action and sustained campaign by new groups of subscribers as the controversy

Decision to leave made on Monday

By Michael Tate

Sir George Jefferson's decision to retire as chairman of British Telecom was not ratified finally until a special board meeting last Monday.

The same meeting, understood to have been attended by all the directors, other than Sir David Scholey, who was on holiday, and Mr Clive Foxell, who was unwell, also formally approved the appointment of Mr Iain Vallance as Sir George's successor.

Speculation that the handover of power was hastened by the growing barrage of criticism of the company in the past few weeks persists. However, this is resolutely denied by the company, which insists that it is normal business practice for directors not to announce formally their retirement until shortly before the event.

Sir George's co-directors said they were aware of his decision to retire, and of Mr Vallance's succession, some weeks ago. Sir George had expressed a desire to step down before the 1986 annual meeting, but had agreed to a request to stay on until after

the general election. He would leave on September 30, when he would relinquish his responsibilities as chief executive to Mr Vallance.

However, the company claimed that Sir George's decision to leave on September 30 depended on the progress made by Telecom in rectifying what it called its "service difficulties". Sir George was not in a position to do that until the last few days, a company spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Paul Bosonnet, one of the two non-executive directors appointed by the Government, which still owns 49 per cent of British Telecom, said the election had represented "a hiccup about the company's future and it was agreed that Sir George would not go until it was resolved".

Telecom said it was aware last Friday that *The Times* was to publish on Tuesday a series of critical articles about the company.

It insisted that "nobody from outside the company was approached about the chairmanship".

£5m for flood victims

Another £5 million aid is to be made available by the British Government for Bangladesh where vast areas of land are still under water (Paul Valley writes).

Mr Chris Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, will visit the country when the floods have subsided to assess the damage.

The money is for 50,000 tonnes of food to be distributed through the World Food Programme.

It will also expand existing development projects in bridge, road and embankment building, he announced yesterday in an interview with *The Times*.

Bangladesh despair, page 10

Blood transfusion service 'dangerous shambles'

By Our Science Correspondent

The blood transfusion service in England and Wales is a "fragmented and disorganized shambles", according to a report published today.

Chronic shortages of blood and some blood products and bad management have put the health of patients at risk, the report says.

Its author, Dr John Cash, medical director of the blood transfusion service in Scotland, says that one result has been the big number of haemophiliacs who have been infected with the Aids virus from imports of contaminated blood products.

He warns in a leading article in the *British Medical Journal* that unless the decline in the service is halted, the

consequences in the next decade will be serious.

Dr Cash says the concept of a "gift relationship" between voluntary donors and patients has been lost by a service whose departments barely succeed in working together, with a management system which is "wasteful and dangerous".

He says specialists warned more than 10 years ago that the service could not cope with the demand for blood-clotting products to treat haemophiliacs. It was emphasized at the time that there was a higher risk of infecting such patients with viruses from commercial products than from voluntary blood donors.

"In London and the Home Counties there are chronic and occasionally serious shortages of blood. There is



Mr Iain Vallance: Ministers fear his appointment will be regarded by telephone users as a sign of complacency.

Libya switches to Iraq's side in the Gulf war

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

In an abrupt and dramatic volte-face, Libya yesterday aligned itself with Iraq in the Gulf war and broke off its support for Iran.

A joint communiqué issued in Baghdad after a visit there by Mr Jadhaf al-Qadhafi, the Libyan Foreign Minister, virtually branded Iran as the "aggressor" in the conflict, even though Libya has sold weapons to Tehran, including some of the surface-to-surface "Scud" missiles which the Iranians have used to attack Baghdad.

Libya's reasons for deserting Iran on the very eve of the visit to Tehran and Baghdad by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, were not included in the communiqué. But the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, has found

committing Libya to its new policy in the Gulf.

The Colonel has been increasingly critical of Iran in recent weeks as the Gulf war threatened to embrace Arab Gulf nations and possibly the superpowers as well.

The Baghdad communiqué referred to "brotherly Iraqi-Libyan relations" and proclaimed that both parties agreed "according to the Arab League Charter, to oppose any foreign aggression against the territory or interests of any Arab state", a clear implication that Iran was the aggressor in the conflict.

The Libyans also agreed on "the necessity of ending the Gulf war through peaceful means and according to international law, because its continuation serves imperialist and Zionist plots".

The statement aligned both countries with the Arab League's support for the July 20 UN Security Council ceasefire resolution.

Only last Sunday Libya appealed for "Arab solidarity" against what it referred to as "French and American aggression" against its territory through Chad. Colonel Gaddafi will therefore presumably expect some quid pro quo from the Arabs, perhaps a statement of support in its struggle with Chadian forces from President Saddam Hussein.

● Gulf fighting: Both Iran and Iraq yesterday seemed set on a course of attack and counter-attack right up to the moment Señor Pérez de Cuellar arrives in Tehran on his lone peace mission (Our Defence Correspondent writes).

Western diplomatic sources Continued on page 22, col 4

Reagans welcome the Pope

From Charles Bremner Miami

The Pope landed in a fortress-like Miami yesterday to start his tour of the United States aimed in part at enforcing orthodoxy among the wayward American Catholics.

With police helicopters hovering overhead, President Reagan and his wife, Nancy, welcomed the Pope when he arrived on board his plane, Shepherd One, in blistering heat at Miami airport.

Over 5,000 security forces had sealed off the area as part of a gigantic operation to protect the Pontiff and the President, both of whom have both been shot by would-be assassins.

Miami, like most of the Pope's other stops on his tour of southern United States, has a big Hispanic population, thousands of whom turned out to greet the Pontiff on his arrival.

About a third of the country's 55 million Catholics are now of Latin American origin. At an open air Mass today, the Pope is due to speak in Spanish and Creole, as well as English.

Vatican line, page 9

IN PART 2

Degree course vacancies

The Times Degree Course Vacancies Service today covers agriculture, social sciences and business studies.....Page 38

R-R profit up

Rolls-Royce reported interim pretax profits of £60 million, a £7 million increase.....Page 23

TIMES FOCUS

For new students, going to college this autumn is an adventure and a challenge. A Special Report on the pitfalls and opportunities.....Pages 31-34

Portfolio

● Two readers shared yesterday's £3,000 prize in the Times Portfolio Gold competition, double the usual amount as there was no winner the day before. Details, page 3. ● Portfolio list, page 29.

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TUC congress votes against holding nuclear referendum

By Tim Jones and Nicholas Wood

The TUC's much-vaunted new realism failed its first crucial test yesterday when delegates overwhelmingly threw out a proposal by moderates to begin the process of changing Labour's non-nuclear defence policy.

They backed a resolution from the Communist-led Tass union insisting that Britain's nuclear weapons should be scrapped and workers engaged in nuclear arms production redeployed to "peaceful purposes".

The issue, which many centrist trade unionists and Labour MPs believe cost the party the last election, remains firmly on the political agenda as the party begins the agonizing business of facing up to its third election defeat.

At Labour's conference later

this month, Mr Eric Hammond, the electricians' leader, who yesterday faced jeers and insults, will again propose that the party resolves the disarmament controversy by holding a national referendum.

Mr Hammond and Mr Bill Jordan, president of the engineers' union, argued yesterday that the election result demonstrated conclusively that the British people would not support a party committed to unilateral disarmament.

Labour was effectively disqualifying itself from office by maintaining such a posture and so forgoing any possibility of carrying out its programme for social and economic recovery.

The two union leaders are

determined to press ahead with their campaign, in the belief that with Labour's policy in all areas now under review at the behest of Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, they can swing the party and the labour movement away from its present position before the next election.

Mr Kinnock already acknowledges that a defence policy constructed for 1987 is unlikely to meet the requirements of the early 1990s, when Trident will be in an advanced stage of development and the superpowers may have drastically reduced their nuclear arsenals.

However, he recognizes that the issue is so sensitive it could shatter his party if

Continued on page 22, col 7

Scargill loses vote on atomic energy

By John Spicer

Mr Arthur Scargill, leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, yesterday suffered his second big defeat at the TUC conference in Blackpool when delegates voted overwhelmingly against his move to commit the unions to shutting down Britain's nuclear power industry.

Instead they agreed that the TUC should have another 12 months to look into all aspects of nuclear power and report back to next year's conference.

Last year's conference agreed that the TUC should set up a nuclear review body and report this year. The body, which includes Mr Scargill, has issued one report but says it needs more time.

On Monday, Mr Scargill was also defeated when he tried to force a debate on no-strike deals. Delegates rejected his call to settle the issue and voted to give their general

council six-months to try to reach a compromise.

Mr Scargill, moving a resolution from his own union, yesterday said the TUC had promised 12 months ago that a decision would be taken, this week.

"We are being asked to procrastinate on one of the most important matters that we will ever have before us."

Mr Scargill said that while 40,000 jobs in the nuclear power industry were likely to be lost with its closure, far more jobs would be created by relying on coal, wind, tides and solar power.

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said that for too long the nuclear energy issue had tended to be characterized by a clash of extreme views. He said the review body had narrowed down the areas of disagreement but had not completed its work.



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Humans set to test experimental Aids vaccine next year

By Thomson Practice, Science Correspondent

The first human tests of an experimental vaccine against Aids could be carried out in Britain next year, one of the leading researchers said yesterday.

The vaccine, developed from part of the virus which causes the disease, employs a substance extracted from trees by Amazonian Indians as a traditional treatment for wounds.

The extract from the bark of the Brazilian oak has been modified already to produce a "100 per cent successful" vaccine against leukaemia in cats, a disease similar to Aids, and to develop another vaccine for influenza in horses.

Professor William Jarrett, the head of veterinary pathology at Glasgow University, who is leading the research, said that he and colleagues were almost ready to carry out the first, small-scale human trials of the candidate vaccine.

Trials of the product in monkeys and other animals showed it produced antibodies which neutralized the Aids virus. But it remained to be seen whether the same would happen in people, Professor Jarrett said.

"The human being is really the final arbiter of whether it will work or not."

Professor Jarrett was speaking at a Medical Research Council news conference to report progress on Aids projects being funded over the

next three years with £14.5 million in government grants. The council has awarded grants worth more than £1 million to the Glasgow team. Professor Jarrett and other experts expressed optimism about the prospects for an effective vaccine and for new drugs to treat sufferers of the disease.

The early trials are likely to involve about 60 people, none of whom would be taken from the groups known to be at increased risk of Aids, such as homosexuals, haemophiliacs and intravenous drug abusers. Half of them would receive the vaccine, and the others a placebo.

If those tests were successful, larger trials would then be carried out either in Britain, or in parts of Africa where Aids is widespread. In any event, the availability of an approved vaccine is still some years distant, Professor Jarrett said.

The Brazilian oak extract, guila, was used originally by Indians as a blood-clotting treatment for wounds from poisoned darts.

In the 1970s it was adapted by Swedish scientists for commercial research, and formed the basis of a technique of genetic engineering. Its role is to act as a "delivery vehicle" for the vaccine and to enhance the body's immune response to infection.

Professor Jarrett and colleagues at Glasgow developed

the world's first effective vaccine against cat leukaemia from this technique, and that work has helped speed progress on the Aids project.

Other natural substances are also being investigated for potential Aids drugs. One is an extract from an Australian chestnut which appears able to inhibit the effects of the virus on human cells.

Dr Max Perutz, chairman of the Medical Research Council's antiviral study committee, said the substance, castanospermine, might be valuable when combined with AZT, the Wellcome Foundation drug, which slows the progress of Aids infection in sufferers, but which has serious side-effects.

It is being evaluated by scientists in London and Cambridge but has not been tested on humans.

Since last April, the council has decided to fund Aids research in 22 laboratories.

It is helping to define guidelines under which potential vaccines and drugs can be rigorously tested for safety before trials involving human volunteers are conducted.

"What we don't want is small, ineffective trials fired off by enthusiasts which will make us none the wiser," Sir James Gowans, secretary of the council said. "We want to do everything properly."

Jail saves fan from extradition to Belgium

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A Liverpool football supporter escaped immediate extradition to Belgium yesterday when an English court sentenced him to four years' imprisonment for assault.

The Home Office said that after Anthony Hogan, aged 24, had served his sentence, he would be surrendered to Belgium, where he faces charges arising from the Heysel stadium riot.

With full remission, he would serve two years and eight months before being liable to extradition.

In the meantime, it is open to the Belgians to try him in his absence. If convicted, he might then have to serve a further sentence.

The Belgians may decide to drop the extradition request, or, if Hogan is convicted in his absence, they may decide that the term of imprisonment he is serving in England is sufficient punishment.

Another option is for the Belgians to delay Hogan's trial until his sentence is served in England. But that would mean the whole trial with the expense of witnesses and videotapes, would have to be repeated.

There would also have to be fresh extradition proceedings. The Home Office said a person cannot be extradited while facing charges or serving a prison sentence.

Hogan was kept in Britain so he could appear at Liverpool Crown Court on four assault charges.

Hogan, of Gloucester Way, Everton, Liverpool, admitted wounding Arthur Edwards, assaulting PC Brian Hildreth causing actual bodily harm, and two charges of common assault on Barbara Tallon and Daniel Ayres, all on January 16.

Hogan was jailed for two years for wounding Mr Edwards, two years consecutive for assaulting PC Hildreth and three months concurrent for each of the other assaults.

Relatives and friends of the 25 supporters extradited to Belgium said yesterday they intended to take a coach trip to the prison where they are being held even though they have been told that weekend visits will not be permitted.

Mrs Joan Hurst, organizer of the Heysel Fund, said the authorities were unjust for banning weekend visits, which Belgian prisoners are allowed.

Mrs Hurst said she and other relatives of the 25 are going to "hammer on the doors of the prison" until they are allowed in.



Sue MacGregor ending a 15-year era yesterday.

Presenter leaves Woman's Hour

By Lynda Murrin, Arts Correspondent

Sue MacGregor, the presenter, said farewell to BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* yesterday with a programme featuring a typical mix of subjects, from government strategies to gynaecology.

She is leaving after 15 years to work full-time on the station's early morning *Today* programme.

Among her final guests on yesterday's broadcast live from the Royal Academy of Music, were Erica Jong, the American writer, Sheila Kitzinger, the natural childbirth campaigner, Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Lady Warnock and Ruby Turner, the singer.

An audience of about 500, including several men, presented the departing presenter with flowers, fruit and books. Miss MacGregor paid tribute to the programme's

pioneering spirit since its inception more than 40 years ago, and added: "I have great regrets to be leaving. I shall miss the *Hour* dreadfully."

Sue MacGregor's place on the programme will be taken by Jenni Murray.

Mr Michael Checkland, Director General of the BBC, last night completed his radical shake-up of the corporation's senior management with the appointment of a woman as head of a new central policy and planning unit (Our Media Editor writes).

Mrs Patricia Hodgson, aged 40, a former presenter on the *Today* programme and Secretary of the BBC for the past two years, will be responsible, among other things, for helping to draw up policy and guidelines on taste and standards for radio and television.

Cleared huntsman tells of hate mail

A young huntsman who received death threats and hate mail when he was accused of throwing a live fox to a pack of hounds was acquitted on a cruelty charge yesterday.

Magistrates at Llandello in Dyfed cleared John Murray, aged 18, in a test case brought by the RSPCA.

Witnesses said he dragged a wounded and exhausted fox from a river during a Saturday afternoon hunt then tossed it to waiting hounds to be killed in a village square.

Mr Murray who was following the Crwt-y-Cudno Farmers' Hunt, insisted the fox was already dead when he retrieved it from the water.

"I have had all sorts of filthy letters, phone calls and threats on my life," he told the court.

"It's totally ridiculous. The fox was dead, definitely dead."

The RSPCA summoned him for "cruelly terrifying" the fox after complaints from shoppers and passers-by in the village of Llanwada where the hunt ended last February.

Mr David Evans, for the prosecution, said the petted fox, covered in blood and exhausted, was trapped and entitled to protection under the law.

Mr Gareth Owen, for the defence, said experienced hunters were satisfied the fox was already dead and merely being shown to the hounds.

He warned magistrates a conviction would have "far reaching implications" for country pursuits.

Huntsmen, shooters and perhaps Welsh coracle men who "had salmon flapping around in the bottom of their boats" might face similar prosecutions for hunting wild animals.

"The fox is not within the law and this animal was never within the protection of the Act," he added.

Mr Murray, a community scheme worker, of Ellis Cottage, Llanwada, said he would never have picked up a live fox because of fear of being bitten.

Another hunt follower, Mr David Harcombe, said a woman shopper became hysterical when she saw the hounds with the fox.

"She was calling farmers everything under the sun. She was so distraught I thought she was having a fit," he said.

The RSPCA said it would consider an appeal.

The Masters of Foxhounds Association said the hunt involved was not one of the 200 properly-organized packs of which it was the governing body.

Portfolio Gold Winner to invest his share

Mr David Andrews, aged 39, a commercial vehicle engineer, was one of two winners of *The Times Portfolio Gold* competition yesterday.

A father of three girls, aged seven, five and three, he declared himself delighted with the win of £2,000.

Mr Andrews, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, said he would probably use the money to buy shares.

The second winner was Mr Niall Bogue, from Edinburgh, who said his £2,000 would go towards a holiday in France.

A solicitor, aged 38, he will tour there next year with his wife Dorothy and their two children.

Mr Bogue said that he takes part in the daily competition only occasionally—depending on the time available.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,
The Times,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.

Man quizzed nine times over murder

A prosecution witness who says he found the body of a girl, aged seven, at her home in Skegness last year, told yesterday how he had been arrested as a murder suspect.

Mr Nigel Marriott, aged 26, the boy friend of the girl's mother, Mrs Christina Spencer, aged 28, told Nottingham Crown Court that he was questioned nine times by police about the murder of Nicola Spencer.

Mr Antony Shirley, aged 19, of Lameley Avenue, Skegness, Lincolnshire, has been charged with the murder at Mrs Spencer's flat in Grosvenor Road, Skegness, just before Christmas last year. He has pleaded not guilty.

Mr Shirley, unemployed, is alleged to have confessed to police that he strangled Nicola in a dispute over a video which he had called at the flat to collect.

Mr Marriott said he discovered the girl's body when he visited the flat to collect Mrs Spencer's asthma inhaler during a night of drinking with her.

He went back to the public house in Skegness where Mrs Spencer was waiting and raised the alarm.

The case continues today.

Swordstick man convicted

By Mark Ellis

A man who used a swordstick to stab an attacker trying to strangle him on a London Underground train was found guilty of carrying an offensive weapon yesterday.

The court was told that Eric Butler, aged 56, a credit controller, lunged his swordstick into his attacker, who was violently drunk, as he was returning home on the Victoria line last March.

Judge Michael McMullen told Wood Green Crown Court, north London, that in spite of great sympathy for Butler's ordeal, and taking into account his excellent character, he still had to impose a punishment with a deterrent effect.

Butler, of Forest Glade, Waltham Forest, north-east London, who claimed he carried the swordstick to help his walking, was sentenced to the

minimum of 28 days imprisonment, suspended for nine months, and fined £200.

Butler told the court: "I am shattered by the result. I don't think it's real justice and I am considering the question of appeal."

"I am the world's biggest pessimist and I anticipated this result but I have no regrets about what happened. Had I not used the swordstick my life would have been forfeited."

The judge said: "I sit here day after day frequently dealing with cases of offensive weapons involving knives, usually carried by young men of poor education, poor economic status and of unsatisfactory family backgrounds."

"The use of knives is becoming more and more

prevalent, so we are told. I accept you are a man of excellent character, but what sort of distinction are you asking us to draw between a man of character and an ordinary sort of young man who comes before the court with a knife with a six-inch blade?"

The court was told that Butler was returning home from work with a Royal National Life-boat Institution collection box when he was provoked and taunted by two young men, one of whom kicked him in the face and then tried to strangle him.

The prosecution alleged Butler had told the police that he bought the £400 swordstick for self defence. In court, he said he bought the 2.5ft made-to-measure stick to help his walking and as an investment.

Animal neglect

RSPCA in dog licence fight

By Peter Mulligan

The destruction of up to 1,000 unwanted dogs every day in Britain has prompted a new campaign by the RSPCA against the Government's plan to abolish the dog licence.

"We believe the number of dogs put down each year is about 350,000," a spokesman for the RSPCA said yesterday.

The society is launching a poster, advertising and mail campaign next month to coincide with the committee stage of the Local Government Bill which proposes to end the dog licence.

The Government would be able to "wash its hands" of the problem of strays, which would worsen if the legislation went through, the spokesman said.

The association's latest newsletter says: "The current deplorable situation means a large proportion of strays have

to be destroyed, despite the fact that many are young and perfectly healthy animals."

"The mass destruction of unwanted animals, no matter how humanely carried out, is a course of action hated by the RSPCA."

"This cannot continue. Why should a desperate national problem be left to charities to sort out?"

Supported in its stance by vets and animal welfare organizations, the society is confident of getting between 20,000 to 30,000 dog lovers to write to their MPs.

The Joint Advisory Committee on Pets in Society, of which the RSPCA is a member, wants the cost of the licence raised from 37 pence to £5 or £10.

This, it believes, would generate income to provide a

dog warden service, help reduce "impulse buying" of puppies and encourage responsible ownership.

An RSPCA inspector criticized a Surrey court yesterday for fining a reclusive spinster only £100 after she admitted causing unnecessary suffering to 32 poodles.

The court was told that an RSPCA inspector found 32 starving, neglected and foul-smelling toy poodles and poodle pups when he visited Dorothy Clifford's home at Lingfield, Surrey.

Many were emaciated, caked in excrement and in some of the rooms, Inspector John Paul found the skeletal remains of eight other dogs.

Clifford, aged 64, was fined £100 by Oxford magistrates, banned from keeping dogs for life and ordered to pay more than £2,000 costs.

Three quizzed over fire bombings

No armed officers were involved in the arrests.

C13 began investigations after incendiary attacks on three Debenhams stores at Harrow, Romford and Luton.

After the attacks, in which the Luton store was severely damaged at a cost put at several million pounds, responsibility was claimed by the front who said the attacks had been launched because the stores were associated with the sale of animal skins.

They came after several months of work by officers of C13, the anti-terrorist branch.

Mother in plea to captain's brother

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The mother of Captain Simon Hayward, the Life Guards officer jailed in Sweden last month for smuggling cannabis, made a public appeal yesterday for her other son to help clear his brother.

The appeal came as Sir David Napley, solicitor for Hayward, said that he would contact the Home Office and Scotland Yard about a report that the British police had obtained unauthorized telephone taps on the family.

However, senior police

sources within Scotland Yard and the National Drugs Intelligence Unit denied the suggestion categorically.

Hayward's appeal is to be heard at the end of this month.

Mrs Hayward said she was calling on her other son, Christopher, "to come forward and tell his story and give any evidence he can."

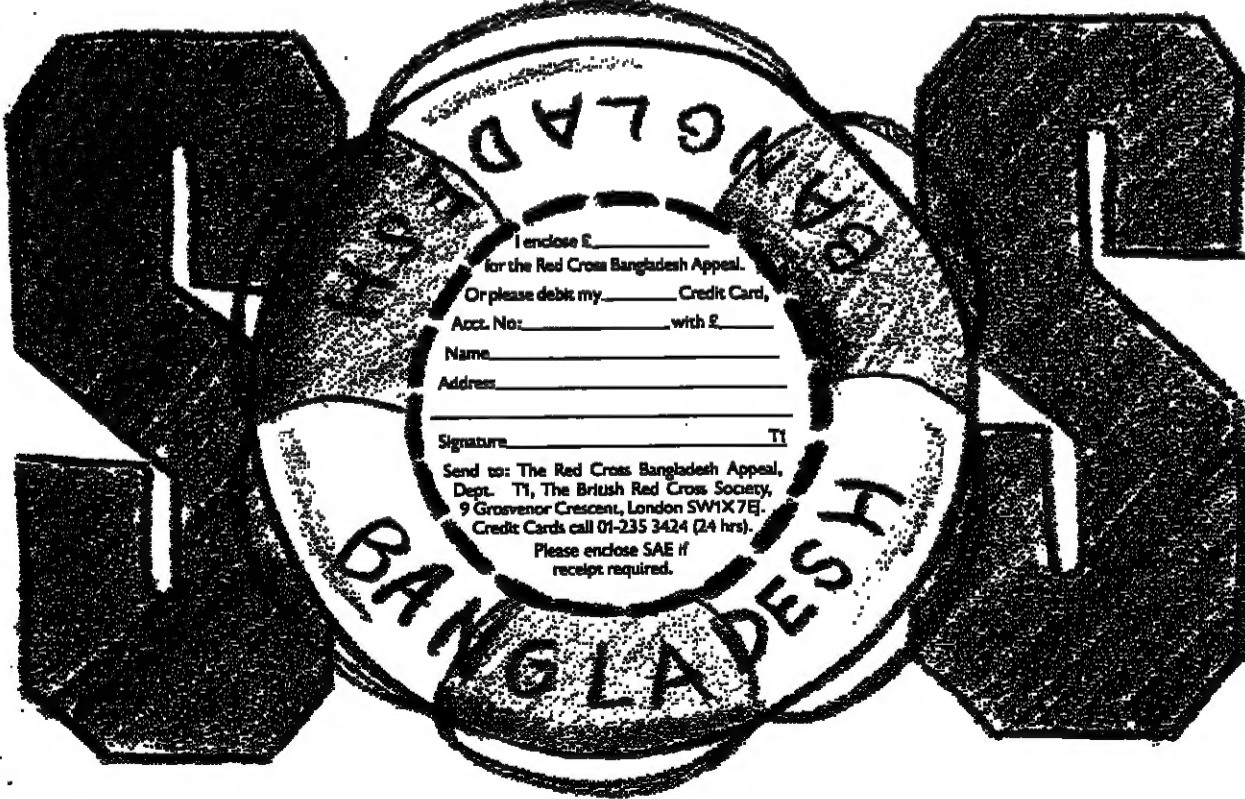
Hayward was sentenced to five years imprisonment after his arrest last March in a car owned by his brother which was carrying 56kg of cannabis.

Drugs death of princess 'an accident'

An Arab princess died accidentally of a drug overdose after an argument with her husband, a coroner found yesterday.

Dr John Burton said the woman had taken two different types of tablet so he could not be sure she had intended to kill herself.

The inquest at Hammer-smith, west London, was told that Fajal Salem Nasser al-Sabah, aged 25, of Horsham, West Sussex, the daughter of the former governor of Kuwait, was found dead at the home of a friend in Ealing, west London, on June 24



RED CROSS+

Millions of human beings have been swept away from their homes. Don't let them go under.

Scargill demand to end nuclear power rejected

The Trades Union Congress overwhelmingly rejected a call yesterday from Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, for an end to nuclear power in Britain.

At its annual meeting, in Blackpool, it backed the general council by agreeing to the continuation of the work of its special review on nuclear power until next year.

Opening the debate, Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said that the nuclear review group, which the congress had called for last year, had been made up of a widely representative group of general council members. It took evidence from the Orkneys to the Ukraine and from Douvray to Chernobyl.

It questioned leading professional experts and people whose commitments for or against nuclear energy had given them considerable expertise. The report was a year's work based on evidence, not dogma. The group had been to the Soviet Union, which was clearly committed to the expansion of nuclear energy, and it had been to Sweden, which voted in a referendum in 1980 to abandon it.

The review body had rejected extreme views. It had started to narrow down the areas of disagreement, but its work was not complete.

Because the members were all committed to put safety first, they had to press hard now for tighter international regulation, including international inspection of British nuclear plants. They also needed a sharp increase in the number of UK nuclear inspectors now.

If the Magnox stations could not meet today's safety standards they should be closed down.

The review body would be pressing for an urgent statutory case for and against reprocessing. Meanwhile, the TUC was

pressing forward with the non-nuclear parts of its energy policy.

It emphasized the need for new coal-burning power stations and a big programme of energy conservation. It would also be following up strongly the declaration of determined opposition to electricity privatization in the face of a Government commitment to a hot-house extension of nuclear energy under privatization.

He added: "So we are asking congress to give us the authority to continue our work on the basis of the understanding that the general council have made, that the final report will be made available in time for union conferences next year."

"It is vitally important... that we complete the careful process of bringing a full report to you, setting out all the things that need to be done."

The report accepted that unions had policies on nuclear energy which they wanted to keep at this stage. The report was not asking them to go against those policies. It is asking them to build on the progress we have made so far and instruct the general council to complete the task set by the congress last year.

Two motions had been put forward. The NUM motion rejected the report and called for the further work they needed to do. The AEU motion would also pre-empt the process. He asked for the withdrawal of both and, if they were not withdrawn, he asked the congress to reject them.

The congress could not support both the report and either of the motions. That would be facing both ways when they should be facing their responsibilities.

Mr Bill Jordan, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, after making out his case for the nuclear industry, withdrew his motion. It said that the congress should reaffirm its support for an integrated energy policy consisting of coal, oil, gas and nuclear.

capable of meeting future needs. He said that his union's commitment to the nuclear energy industry was total. It should be part of a balanced energy policy.

While not agreeing with some of the general council's report recommendations, they believed the generality of its contents had attractions because it was a balanced policy.

The review should continue. Further examination would reinforce the case for the nuclear energy industry.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said that he would not withdraw his motion to reject the report, call a halt to the nuclear power programme and phase out all existing plants as soon as possible.

Last year they were told that a final decision would be taken this year. Now the general council wanted to procrastinate on an issue that was vital to mankind.

Nuclear power demanded their attention and their decision as quickly as possible. It was not an issue which had concentrated their minds and the minds of many people for 12 months, but for 30 years. This was not an issue which could be delayed for a further 12 months.

Any further expansion of the nuclear power industry was totally unacceptable to the NUM, and it was the policy of the Labour Party. They had to campaign for the phasing out of nuclear power.

The Central Electricity Generating Board had deliberately lied to the people over the years. They had said that nuclear-generated electricity was cheaper than coal. They had now conceded that coal-fired generation had been considerably cheaper.

He recognized that jobs in the nuclear industry were at risk, but the development of other forms of electricity generation would create jobs.

Mr Ken Cameron, general



Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, presiding as Mr Arthur Scargill (left) and Mr Bill Jordan make their points.

secretary of The Fire Brigades Union, supporting the NUM, said that the nuclear industry would continue its expansion next year while desperately shoring up its tarnished image in preparation for privatization.

In those circumstances, how could the general council sit there and do nothing, wait and see? "The Fire Brigades Union cannot afford to wait and see."

At Chernobyl, he had spoken to a Soviet fireman who had been severely injured. His view had been that in no circumstances should anyone have to take the risk again.

Mr Bill McCall, general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, said that they should review the merits of the case, especially as the Labour Party did not have the report before it when it framed its present policy.

The major part of the cost of nuclear plants was in the construction. They were cheap to run. The only case for closing

the present stations was if they were unsafe.

The closing of all nuclear plants would lead to between 10,000 and 100,000 people losing their jobs. Whole communities would be destroyed where unemployment was already high. Closure would lead to a shortfall in energy, further unemployment and at least a 15 per cent increase in electricity prices.

The review body had found that there was no case for closure on safety grounds.

Mr David Norman, National Communications Union, said that every engineering discipline must be represented in the hall. Not one could say with hand on heart that their products were 100 per cent foolproof. The report stated that the risk of an accident was at an acceptable level. "The only acceptable level of nuclear accident is no accident at all."

The Government was thinking of putting the nuclear generation industry in the hands

of the private sector. "To do that is putting a loaded revolver in the hands of the drunken man."

The report spoke of acceptable options. "The only acceptable option in our eyes is the non-nuclear option."

Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that his union opposed the motion because the review body had been given a job to do and there was still work to be done. It would be ridiculous, if having been set the task, the report were to be rejected before completion.

Mr Ray McGowan, National Union of Journalists, supporting the motion, said there had been complaints that the media devoted too much space to every little accident or incident in the nuclear power industry. The reality was that there was too little coverage.

The problem journalists faced was that the nuclear industry was surrounded by excessive secrecy, distortion, military

disinformation, selective release of information and selective release of disinformation.

Mr Scargill, replying to the debate, said that one public opinion poll after another had confirmed the opposition of the people to nuclear power. If there was serious intent behind the TUC, that view should be taken into account.

The congress should give a clear moral lead to the people.

Mr Willis said that the points made on behalf of the NUM had been put before several times and rejected. "Arthur, you did not get away with it then and I do not think you have got away with it now," he said.

The issue was a very serious one. "We have a particular independent job to do in order to make sure that carelessness is not turned into policy and the best way to do that is to carry on our work and build up the respect we are getting by definite, detailed work. Not dogma, but detailed work," he said.

Scottish assembly plan is passed

There was unanimous support for a motion proposing a democratically elected Scottish assembly, moved by Mr Peter Andrews, Educational Institute of Scotland, who told the conference that 70 per cent of the Scottish electorate had voted in the general election for parties supporting some form of devolution.

The introduction of the poll tax in Scotland five years before its appearance in England and Wales was another example of the Government's imposing policies against the wishes of the Scottish people. There was no mandate for such action at national, regional or district level.

The idea of a national assembly for Scotland was gaining momentum among a cross section of the Scottish nation and the strength of that support could not be questioned.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said that the general council supported the proposal, which, he said, would provide a strong voice for Scottish concerns. It would be a big issue for political debate in the coming year and trade unions could play a constructive part in that debate.

"If I were a Scot I would deeply resent being used by this Government to set up a one-year-old guinea pig for the poll tax," he said.

Middle East peace move

By a large majority, the congress carried a motion noting the destruction of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and welcoming EEC decisions to support the convening of an international conference as the way to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East.

It was moved by Mr Ken Cameron, general secretary, Fire Brigades Union, who said that British trade unionists had a responsibility to end the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Apartheid resolution

Delegates carried unanimously a composite resolution saluting the struggle of black African working people against the apartheid regime in South Africa and affirming the TUC's support for the independent, non-racial trade union movement. It called on all unions to campaign for the release from prison of all anti-apartheid workers in South Africa and for mandatory economic sanctions.

At the end of the short debate, there was a standing ovation for two leading black trade union leaders from South Africa, Mr James Mkhawane and Mr Khetsi Lekoko, who were on the platform.

Film industry 'is dying'



Nigel Davenport, the actor (above), told delegates that his union, British Actors' Equity Association, believed that the British film industry was dying and that it was "a tragedy".

The Congress unanimously passed his union's motion deploring the Government's failure to adopt a positive and coherent policy towards the film industry and its removal of virtually all fiscal and other incentives to film production in the UK.

Lost, lost, it's all lost

The shortest speech of the conference was made by Mr Bob Fazzakerley of the Engineers' and Managers' Association, who took the rostrum to open debate on takeovers and transfer of undertakings regulations, and told delegates: "I have lost the papers, I have lost the speech and I have lost the general secretary who was going to make it."

He stayed just long enough to propose a motion expressing concern at the lack of attention to the interests of employees during company mergers and takeovers, and then saw it adopted unanimously.

Poll tax vote

Mr Alfred Hitchcock, secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Textile Workers and Kindred Trades, successfully proposed a motion deploring the proposed introduction of a poll tax.

Business today

Today, the final day of the conference, there will be debates on the arts and press ownership. There will also be an emergency debate on Peter Wright's banned book, *Spycatcher*.

AIDS DEBATE

Screening idea condemned

Mr Hector McKenzie, secretary, Confederation of Health Service Employees, moved a motion opposing the idea of medical screening for Aids.

The motion condemned the press "for its appalling portrayal of Aids as a gay disease". It called for more Government resources for the study of Aids to help international efforts to develop a vaccine and spoke of the right of Aids and HIV victims to receive care in the community. It also sought support for members suffering discrimination at work because of Aids.

Mr McKenzie said that Aids was the biggest challenge to the National Health Service this century. His union wanted trades unionists to act against discrimination and to demand Government money so that people could get the care they deserved.

Compulsory screening for the virus was nonsense. A positive test might lead to job loss, loss of home, pension, insurance, or even of family and friends.

Miss Bernadette Hillon, Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, seconding, said that the Government's publicity campaign had done little to explain Aids. Members of unions needed to know how the disease was transmitted. They needed to be told that it could not be caught from coughs and sneezes.

Mr Fred Pickstone, National Association of Probation Officers, said that he welcomed the opportunity to support the motion. Other trade unionists must recognize that it was the health workers who were facing the greatest hazard from Aids.

The motion was carried.

PEACE DEBATE

Nuclear disarmament of Britain approved by large majority

The congress voted by a large majority for the nuclear disarmament of Britain, having thrown out an amendment to the motion calling for a national referendum on the subject.

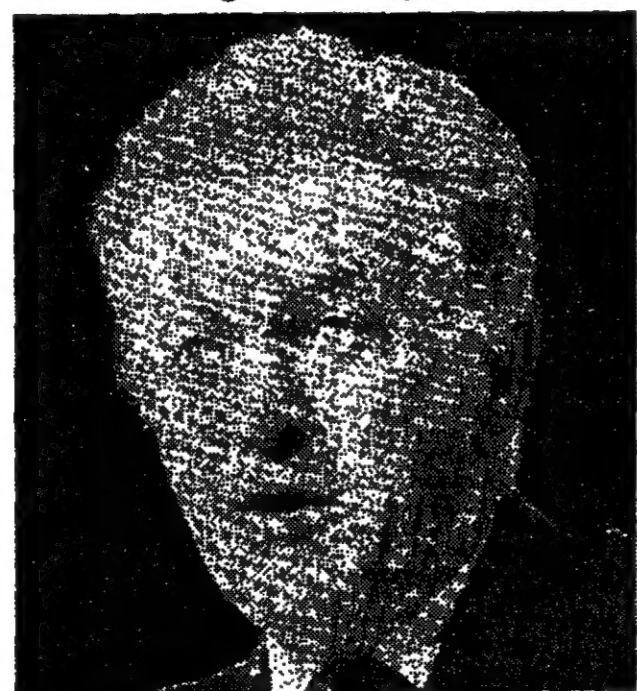
The call for a referendum had a noisy reception when Mr Bill Jordan, Amalgamated Engineering Union, told delegates: "If you believe that the British people share your idealism, have the courage to ask them."

He also brought hostile reaction from the hall when he said that weakness invited invasion, quoting the example of Afghanistan.

The composite motion was proposed by Mr Ken Gill, general secretary of Tass. It expressed the hope that talks in Geneva would lead to negotiated nuclear disarmament, the ending of the nuclear arms race and the eventual worldwide abandonment of nuclear weapons.

Mr Gill said that nuclear disarmament was essential if a nuclear war by accident or design was to be avoided. For the first time the big powers were seriously negotiating cuts in nuclear weapons and the signs were good for agreement before the end of the year.

"What a wonderful, thrilling prospect that is for the world people throughout the world!" Britain had to have a conventional defence capability to protect its legitimate interests, that was accepted. Indeed, the British defence industry was a



Mr Ken Gill: Nuclear weapon cuts "a thrilling prospect".

very important part of manufacturing and was a technology leader. But it would be a happy day when all those employed on producing weapons were employed making other products.

Defence policies should be determined always by political relevance. If the world contained a bunch of Hitlerite leaders it would be foolish not to make defence a political priority.

It was here that Labour's commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament made a positive contribution towards worldwide multilateral disarmament, which must be the eventual objective.

AIRLINES

Proposed merger is backed

The congress carried overwhelmingly an emergency resolution backing the proposed merger between British Airways and British Caledonian.

It said that should the Commission block the merger, thousands of jobs would be put at risk. It urged the commission to accept the merger on the basis of the international nature of civil aviation competition in which the big American carriers were poised to threaten British interests.

Moving the resolution, Mr Doug Hoyle, Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs and MP for Warrington, said that in the international airline business there had to be a major British carrier.

After the merger British Airways would still have only 3 per cent of the market. After de-regulation in the United States, hundreds of small airlines had started, but they had been taken over by the six main carriers. One had already expressed an interest in British Caledonian.

Britain had to have a main airline to fight the competition from America.

This has been the most anxious TUC I have ever attended, and in a way the most historic. A few years ago all the talk at the end of these gatherings was about the new realism. Today we should be referring to the new modesty.

The difference is that while the new realism was a reflection of concern, it was also an expression of hope. Its advocates were worried by the problems facing the unions, but they were confident that the movement could be given a new relevance if it would only concentrate in realistic fashion on its industrial role in a changing economy.

Trade union leaders were upset after Mrs Thatcher came to power when they were excluded from what had become the customary intimate dialogue with ministers. They were all the more indignant because the rebuff seemed a departure from the natural order of things.

All this has changed. No longer is there any real confidence in any section of the movement that the problems can easily be solved. This week's proceedings have been so subdued because there is so much bewilderment on all sides.

The extent of Mrs Thatcher's third election triumph

was a severe blow to union leaders. At least the next three TUC conferences will now be held under Conservative Government, and there has been little expectation in Blackpool this week of a Labour victory next year.

Nor would it make all that much difference to the unions if there was one. The legal restraints upon them would be eased. But the deeper problems would remain: the decline of traditionally highly unionized manufacturing; the lack of interest in union membership in the expanding science-based and service industries; the growth of casual and part-time employment, which presents particular difficulties for union organization.

So the unions are operating in an increasingly unfavourable social climate which may well outlast an unfriendly government. All the signs are that union membership will continue to fall, and with it the economic strength of the movement.

What makes this conference historic is the gloomy recognition of these trends. There is an uneasy awareness that the days of economic power and glory are not likely to return. This is a development of the greatest importance for the

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

country as well as for the unions themselves.

Even under Labour governments their influence depended on their economic clout more than on their political power within the party - and in the pre-Thatcher era that clout gave them influence with Conservative governments as well.

It was because of their fear that the country could not be governed in opposition to the unions that even Conservative ministers welcomed union leaders to Downing Street. It was in the hope of securing

their co-operation in wage restraint that the Wilson and Callaghan governments agreed to the social contract, which enabled the unions to exert pressure on policies well outside their own sphere.

But the unions will never stalk the corridors of power in the same way again if they no longer inspire either the old fear or the hope of effective partnership. A Labour government would reopen the dialogue, but it would not be quite the same dialogue.

Yet a diminished role may not be altogether bad news for the unions. In their days of power they accumulated responsibilities that they could not fulfil.

They failed to take into account that in the British trade union movement, where effective authority has always lain more with the individual unions than with the TUC, nobody can speak for long for the movement as a whole.

So, often with the best of intentions, the TUC tended to promise more than it could deliver. In the long run that was as damaging to the unions as it was to the country. It will be good for everyone if expectations are now more modest.

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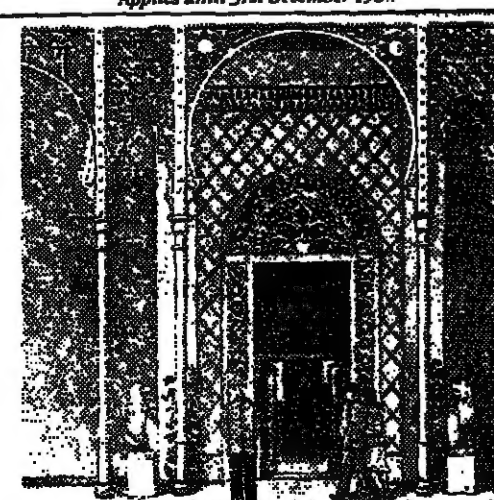
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Congress reports by Robert Morgan, Anthony Hodges and Derek Barnett

Police predict more deaths unless tough gun law is enacted

Britain may be witnessing a massive expansion of the gun trade with new rapid-fire semi-automatic shotguns now on sale, a police leader said yesterday.

Mr Leslie Curtis, chairman of the 120,000-strong Police Federation, said: "If something is not done now, we will have to live with the consequences — and some will have to die with the consequences."

The rank-and-file police leader called for immediate government action, in the wake of the Hungerford killings, to tighten controls of all shotguns as well as semi-automatic weapons.

Mr Curtis told federation members in Durham that deadly semi-automatic shotguns, firing 11 rounds in under 12 seconds, were available through mail order.



Mr Leslie Curtis wants new laws to control shotguns.

He said: "These weapons are being used by the followers of a new sport of target shooting in which people go round ranges, throwing themselves in the grass and firing at objects that spring up in front of them."

"It all sounds relatively harmless but, in the wrong hands, the potential of these weapons is obvious."

"What we may be witnessing is a massive expansion of the gun trade in Britain, with a consequent explosion in the number of weapons for the police to have to deal with."

One example of the new "rapid-fire" shotguns was the "Franchi STAS 12" which is fitted with sights for greater accuracy and retails at £525, or can be bought on credit with a deposit of £50 and monthly payments of £19.

Mr Curtis called for shotguns to be subject to the same controls as rifles and revolvers.

He said: "Three times since Mrs Thatcher came to power, we have asked successive Home Secretaries to agree to change the law. Each time they have refused."

He emphasized that the worry about gun control was not simply a problem of the criminal use of shotguns in armed expeditions against banks, security vans and supermarkets.

"The men who carry out these attacks play for instant

high stakes and they do not give a damn how many they maim or kill — anyone who stands in their way," he said.

"But the case for controls does not rest on this single aspect, far from it. Hardly a day passes without some lone individual, with a shotgun in his hands, shooting at, wounding or killing members of his family, or barricading himself in a house, with a hostage, and the police have to go in to try to save his life and the lives of those hostages."

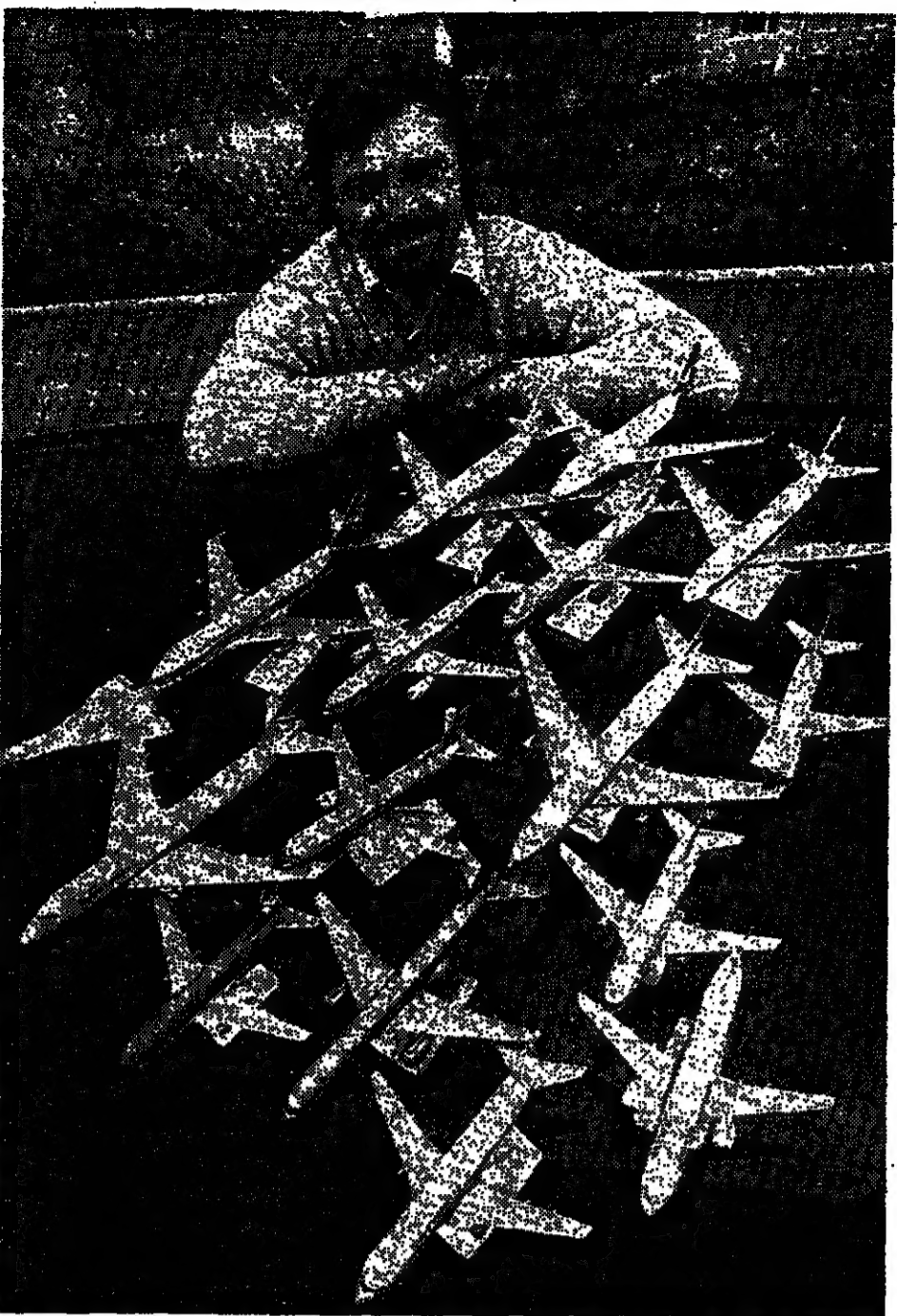
"Time after time in such cases, it is clear to everyone that the disturbed individual concerned has a history of mental illness, depression, or has a drink problem, or is violent within his own family."

"In other words, he should never have had access to a deadly shotgun, yet our law positively encouraged him to obtain one."

The federation was also concerned about the lack of security and safety involving shotguns. Loaded shotguns were too often left lying around for children to pick up, with tragic results, and shotgun owners often showed lack of care in disposing of unwanted weapons.

"It is a nonsense that the police can and will refuse to allow a citizen to keep a revolver for home security, but he can go out and buy a shotgun for the same purpose," Mr Curtis said.

Model idea takes off



Little planes with a big future are proudly displayed by Mr Roger Clark, managing director of a model making company. Every day 1,400 replicas of Boeings, Tri-Stars and Concordes pour off the assembly line of K. V. Wooster International at Campbelltown, Strathclyde.

Forty-two jobs have been created in a £370,000 venture to make the 123 different plastic models. They are moulded in plastic, ultra-sonically welded and hand-printed in the colours of each international carrier. Passengers buy them in flight for between £4 and £10 each.

More than 1.5 million have so far been produced. British Airways alone orders 14,000

a month, and other clients include Highland Express, Japan Air Lines, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Qantas.

The manufacturer, which used to make in-flight cutlery, moved recently into a new factory at the Salsburgh Industrial Estate, Campbelltown, leased by the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

Mr Clark said yesterday: "A few years ago, one of our customers asked us if it would be possible to provide replicas of their planes to satisfy passenger demand. It has now become big business. Airlines are catching on fast that our models are an in-flight money spinner."

(Photograph: Tom Kidd)

£800m rail link 'would regenerate Midlands'

By Craig Seton

Plans for an £800 million light railway to help the economic regeneration of the West Midlands were unveiled yesterday.

The rapid transit system, to be known as the Midland Metro, would be introduced in stages over 25 years by the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority and supported by all seven metropolitan district councils between Coventry, Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

It would involve electrically-powered railcars similar to trams operating over 50 miles of segregated track above and below ground, alongside existing roads or on disused railway lines.

The ambitious scheme has already attracted the interest of the Trafalgar House group and other private financial institutions, who are said to be keen on property development along the route.

The plan envisages that up to 50 per cent of the funding would come from the EEC and up to 25 per cent each from central government and the private sector.

A Bill seeking parliamentary approval for the scheme is due to be introduced in November next year. Construction of the initial, £200 million phase of the network is expected to start in 1990 and be operational two years later on a 12-mile route from the new Snow Hill station in Birmingham to Wolverhampton.

Mr Ray Hughes, project leader, told a launch conference in Birmingham yesterday: "We believe it will reverse the decline in public transport use and improve communications across the whole of the West Midlands."

"A tremendous attraction of the system is the way it can trigger economic development, urban regeneration and help create jobs."

He said the scheme involved railcars powered by overhead lines arriving at unmanned stations about 600 metres apart every 10 minutes. It would complement rather than replace existing public transport services and help to ease traffic congestion in towns and cities.

College to boost Civil Service efficiency

By David Walker
Public Administration
Correspondent

A close aide to Mrs Margaret Thatcher during the Falklands conflict, who was given the job of shaking up the Civil Service College, yesterday pledged his enthusiastic support for the Government's plans to reform Whitehall management and get better value for money.

Mr Roger Jackling, transferred from the Ministry of Defence to the principalship of the college, said in his annual report that the college was playing a central role in training Civil Servants to get better value for the public money they spent and to develop "a modern management culture".

"The college is now poised to make a more significant contribution than before to develop better management practice in the Civil Service", he said.

The college provides training courses for about 20,000 Civil Servants every year.

Mr Jackling was head of the unit servicing the Falklands War Cabinet during the 1982 conflict.

He has since spent a year on a fellowship at Harvard University, wants to increase the number of senior staff sent to the college for management training and broaden its contribution to public administration and management efficiency in the public sector.

Former police chief quizzed

The former Chief Constable of Derbyshire, Mr Alf Parrish, has been questioned by West Midlands Police over claims for expenses made while he was in charge of the force.

Mr Parrish was cleared two months ago of wilful misconduct after a 15-day public inquiry by the District Auditor into the spending of £28,000 on refitting the Chief Constable's office.

Man in court after siege

Mr James Andrew, aged 44, appeared before magistrates at Barnsley yesterday after a police siege at Penistone, South Yorkshire. He was accused of inflicting grievous bodily harm with a single-barrelled shotgun and using a firearm with intent to resist arrest.

Mr Andrew, of Raleigh Street, Radford, Nottingham, was remanded in custody for 24 hours.

Solo oarsman aids charity

Don Allum, the transatlantic oarsman, raised £2,000 for the Spastics Society on his solo double crossing which ended on Achill Island, off the west coast of Ireland, on Saturday.

Mr Allum, aged 50, a painter and decorator, of Heston, west London, said yesterday he had no plans to row the Atlantic again after his 77-day, 2,500-mile voyage.

School patrol to check abuse

Parents were yesterday urged to form playground patrol groups at their children's schools in an attempt to stamp out child sex abuse. The call from Childwatch, the national anti-child abuse organization, comes after one of its members visited 100 school playgrounds and was only questioned by one supervisor.

Mrs Diane Core, Childwatch founder member, said yesterday: "It is a frightening thing and shows that children are just there for the picking. Parents think that when they leave their youngsters at school they are safe but this is not so."

Currie praises oldest mother

Britain's oldest mother Mrs Kathleen Campbell, aged 55, of Comanahy, near Ilkeston, Derbyshire, had a surprise visitor at Nottingham City Hospital yesterday — Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security.

After the visit Mrs Currie said: "I think she made the right decision to go ahead with the pregnancy. The baby is absolutely perfectly formed."

Barrister attacks 'ignorant' judges

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Lord Gifford made a powerful attack on judges yesterday, accusing them of narrow-mindedness, ignorance and complacency.

A college should be set up to train them, together with inspectors to deal with complaints, he said.

Lord Gifford, a prominent QC who has practised as a barrister for 21 years, told the annual conference of the Howard League, the penal reform group, in Oxford that lawyers, whether judges, barristers or solicitors, were staggeringly complacent.

Alternatives to prison must be adopted if the scandal of overcrowded jails and over-reliance on custodial sentences was to be ended, he said.

"For as long as our judiciary continue to dish out sentences of imprisonment which serve no useful purpose, which out-cast offenders from the social pale instead of trying to reorientate them within it, then that scandal will remain unremedied."

The narrow-mindedness stemmed from the background and formation of many who became judges, he said.

"We must throw open the catchment area of judicial appointments to all lawyers — solicitors, academic lawyers, other practising lawyers. We must also throw open the appointment system itself to introducing outside skills into the process which the Lord Chancellor's office is engaged in."

"Instead of a rather narrow process of consultation by the

Lord Chancellor's officials we need a judicial appointments advisory board, made up predominantly of those who are not lawyers, who understand some of the skills which are needed to make an acceptable job of the process of judging."

The ignorance of judges stemmed from their lack of training. "The heavy responsibility of sentencing should be undertaken by people with a thorough grounding in penal theory and practice."

However, in practice, all that judges got on their appointment was attendance at a three-day seminar where older judges passed on to younger judges their views on appropriate sentencing and principles.

"We need a judicial training college at which candidates for a career in judging would be able to apply at a much younger stage in their working lives," he said.

Lord Gifford called for reform in the selection of magistrates to provide a wider, more open appointment system and for better training for magistrates clerks.

But however the appointment system was changed, there would remain judicial abuses, which required a much better way of dealing with complaints about magistrates and judges, Lord Gifford said.

An inspectorate of judiciary was needed, whose members could sit in the public gallery and then report to the Lord Chancellor or Minister of Justice on court personnel about whom there had been complaints.

Fears over 'sewer end' of Press

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

Parliament will be forced to clean up the "sewer end" of the British Press unless journalists and newspaper owners do it themselves, Mr Robin Corbett, a senior Labour home affairs spokesman, said yesterday.

His warning came only hours after London-based journalists on *The Star* newspaper unanimously expressed dismay and disgust at the new policies of the paper, which recently linked up with the downmarket *Sunday Sport*.

The chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists intends to meet the newspaper's management to ask for severance payments for those wishing to leave.

Mr Corbett, Opposition spokesman on broadcasting and a former member of the NUJ executive, said that since the involvement of *Sunday Sport*, the revamped *Star* had become a disgrace to British journalism.

He said an "anything goes" regime was not tolerated in broadcasting or cinema, and it should not occur in the Press.

Mr Corbett described one edition as a "paedophile issue".

Sunday Sport was launched last September by Mr David Sullivan, who also publishes soft pornography magazines.

Mr Mike Gabbett, new editor of *The Star* and editorial director of *Sunday Sport*, said: "We have had a 3.5 per cent rise in circulation in the first four days of the new-look *Star* and for the first time in the history of the paper we have a 36-page paper tomorrow because so many advertisements are flooding in."

He said only seven of 300 letters about the new paper had been critical.

Everest attempts

Hillary's son aims for peak

The son of the man who became the first to climb Mount Everest 34 years ago has begun his second attempt to scale the world's highest peak, according to the Nepalese tourism ministry in Kathmandu.

Peter Hillary, aged 32, whose father Sir Edmund Hillary made the first ascent in May 1953 with Tenzing Norgay, the sherpa climber, is leading a four-man team of New Zealanders and Australians.

They pitched base camp at 18,470 ft on August 23, according to the ministry spokesman, but there was no further news.

Seven teams are planning assaults on the 29,028 ft mountain this autumn, the start of the climbing season. Three are trying from its southern, Nepalese, slopes and four from the Tibetan north.

Two British climbers, Doug Scott and his son Michael Scott are among a group of nine climbers aiming to conquer Everest's last unclimbed feature, the long and difficult east-northeast ridge.

Doug Scott, aged 45, made the first ascent of Everest's

west south-west face in September 1975.

The Scotts, if they go to the summit together, will be the first father-son pair to do so. Doug Scott would also be the first person to have succeeded on two previously unclimbed routes.

Besides Mr Hillary, who would be the first son of an Everest summiter to conquer the mountain himself, this season's climbers are aiming for a number of other "firsts".

Those would include the first woman to reach the summit without oxygen; the first French and American women to reach the top; the first person to reach the summit by two previously unclimbed routes; the first American to get to the top by two different routes; the first woman to ski down from the summit.

Mr Hillary, who lives in Australia, in Carlton, Victoria, is using a different route from his father's, taking his team up the south pillar of Everest.

The latest attempt is Mr Hillary's second bid to follow his father to the top of the world. The first, three years ago, ended in tragedy when two Australian team mates,

Fred From and Craig Nopie.

Eleven Americans will be on the south-east ridge route pioneered by Hillary and Norgay.

They will include Peter Whitaker, aged 28, from Ashford, Washington, who is the nephew of Jim Whitaker, the first American to reach the summit.

Four women among Whitaker's team mates, and more on other American expeditions on the northern slopes, will be battling to become the first American women to reach the top.

Another mostly German-speaking expedition includes Laurence de la Ferrière, aged 30, from Chamonix, who wants to be the first Frenchwoman to reach the top by two different routes, and the first woman to succeed without extra oxygen.

Peter Jamieson, aged 31, an American, plans to ski 8,200 vertical ft down from the top.

The seventh expedition consists of at least 20 cadets from Japan's National Defence Academy.

Weekend food prices

Omani fish shipment causes stir at Billingsgate

There was a flurry of excitement at Billingsgate this week with the arrival of what is believed to be the first shipment of fresh fish from Oman.

The consignment included emperor, a species new to Britain, barracuda, grouper, gilt head bream and fresh trevally. They are available only from select fishmongers and will be expensive.

Chicken turbot is about £3.70 a lb, but cutlets at £8 a lb are surely in the luxury class. Huss is scarce and expensive due to quota restrictions. Cod,

codling, haddock, plaice, coley and mackerel are all up a few pence. The best purchases are herring, down 3p a lb and native mussels, down to about 50p a pint. Also cheaper this week are lemon sole, dab and Dover sole.

Another recommended buy is sea-reared rainbow trout from Norway, costing from £1.45 a lb. French oysters are about £5.90 a dozen.

Prices of home-produced lamb have taken a tumble. The average whole leg price is £1.67 a lb, but many super-

markets are selling at between £1.49 and £1.59. Whole shoulder costs between 78p and £1.20 a lb, but it can be bought at some supermarkets for 79p.

This is a good time to put lamb in the freezer. If you do not want a whole or even a half-lamb, talk to your butcher and he will probably meet your requirements economically. New Zealand lamb legs are down 3p a lb.

Rump steak is down 4p a lb to an average of £3.02. Boneless sirloin and sirloin steak are also a little cheaper.

However, topside, silverside, stewing steak and mince are all up slightly.

Good meat offers this week include Dewhurst's home produced lamb leg at £1.59 a lb and shoulders from 79p to 89p according to region; Presto whole and half lamb shoulders, 78p a lb and whole and half legs, £1.48 a lb; Sainsbury's leg of pork, 98p a lb; Tesco rump steak, £1.99 a lb and home-produced lamb cutlets, £1.39 a lb.

Asda home-produced fresh chicken at 69p a lb is also a

good buy as are Marks & Spencer chicken breast fillets in breadcrumbs, down 20p to £2.69 a lb; Bejam 4.4lb packs of stewing steak at £5.12 a pack and minced lamb 2lb packs at £1.69 a pack.

Salad ingredients are plentiful, but tomatoes, at 50-70p a lb are more expensive than last week.

There are a lot of home grown vegetables to choose from, including sweetcorn, at 15-30p each; Brussel sprouts, at 25-40p a lb, are down in price.

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The Pope's tour of the US

American Catholics expect strong call to toe Vatican line

From Charles Bremner, Miami

The Pope arrived in Miami last night for a tour of the United States during which he aims to call for obedience to Vatican doctrine from large rebellious sections of the country's Roman Catholic Church.

Hundreds of thousands of people braved heat and humidity to line the Pope's routes in Miami, where he was due to meet President Reagan at the start of his nine-city tour. The high point of the Miami stop will be an open-air Mass later today.

Thousands of police and National Guard men mounted a security operation on a scale never before seen here, to protect the Pope and the President. Both leaders have been shot in assassination attempts. Among other unflattering statistics, Miami has more gun-owners than any other city. Frogmen dived around the Viscaya House, where the men were to meet, manhole covers on the Pope's parade route were welded shut, and sharpshooters lined the rooftops.

Local leaders, under fire for the \$5,000-a-minute cost of the operation, have seen the Pope's 24 hours here as a chance to polish the town's image, tarnished by its recent Miami Vice reputation as a tropical haven for billionaire cocaine gangs and other criminals.

Unlike his first visit in 1979, when he toured the old Catholic heartland, the Pope is concentrating this time on the Southern and Western states. The area is home for a big proportion of the growing Hispanic community which already accounts for about a third of the Catholic Church's 53 million members in the

US. "Viva el Papa" was the most common banner around the Miami surfs.

Millions are expected to turn out to see the Pope as he visits South Carolina, Louisiana, Texas, Arizona, California and Detroit.

Like the Pope's other pastoral journeys, his trip combines the glamour of a mega-

not oppose abortion. American Catholics, whose Church is one of the healthiest and certainly the richest in the world, are increasingly reluctant to accept the dictates of the Pope without question. Now that they are on average well-educated and affluent, they appear to believe more in a democratic Church responsive to majority opinion.

The Pope is said to be highly concerned at what he sees as a dangerous trend towards disobedience, not just from the increasingly active laity, but also from among the priests and bishops.

Some dissident church members are planning demonstrations over issues such as homosexuality and abortion during the Pope's tour, particularly in San Francisco next week.

The Pope is said to be bringing a tough message on unity and discipline though he has also promised to listen.

"He is the teacher of Catholic truth, and the truths of the Catholic faith are not up for agreement or disagreement," said Archbishop John May of St Louis, the president of the US Bishops' Conference.

The Pope will also be meeting other religious groups. This morning he is due to meet Jewish leaders in Miami before making a stop-over in South Carolina to talk to Protestant church leaders there.

He is also expected to denounce the materialism of modern America, an aspect of the country which he deplores, although he admires its energy and political freedom.

The Pontiff is focusing during this trip on the poor, many of whom he will meet.



Herr Honecker studying a bust of Karl Marx during a visit yesterday to the house where the father of communism was born in the Rhineland town of Trier. The East German leader gave documents relating to Marx's wife to the museum there.

Trip down memory lane for 'our Erich'

From Richard Owen, Neunkirchen

There were those who were proud of "our Erich", those who were indifferent, and those who found the whole thing objectionable. The return of Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, to his native Saarland yesterday was the emotional climax of his historic five-day visit to West Germany.

As police kept protesters at bay amid tight security, he was met by a local choir and by the blue-shirted pipe and drum band of Wiebelskirchen, a revived version of the left-wing band Herr Honecker himself played in as a boy.

The band, broken up by the Nazis but reformed in the 1960s, boasts that Herr Honecker is an honorary member. Yesterday it put on a street festival for him to provide continuity with the past. Herr Werner Zins, who leads the band and used to play the trumpet while young Erich played the drums, had a

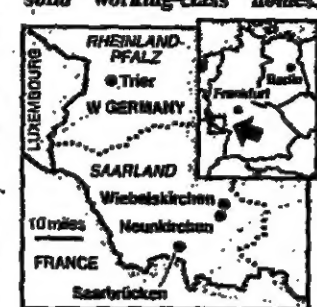
moving reunion with his old friend.

The link with the past was illusory, however. The local Communist Party (DKP), has dwindled to a few hundred, the iron and steel baron Herr Honecker was taught to hate as a boy is long dead, and the mines are state-owned. The Communist Party, Herr Honecker went on to create in East Germany still rules, with Soviet backing; the one he left behind has wilted in conditions of democracy.

Neunkirchen, where Herr Honecker was born, and near Wiebelskirchen, where he grew up and where his sister still lives, are small, grimy industrial towns beset by the problems of high unemployment and run-down mining and steel industries. To Herr Honecker they were, and are, examples of the ills of capitalism.

None the less, they look prosperous and neat, even in

yesterday's light rain, with more goods in the shops than most East Germans can ever dream of. If the point struck Herr Honecker, he did not admit it. The back-street houses he knew when he was an apprentice roof mender are solid working-class homes.



well looked after, and the local Social Democratic government, under Herr Oskar Lafontaine, is trying to create new industries.

For a few of the present inhabitants, Herr Honecker is a "local boy made good", and

Herr Lafontaine welcomed him as such at a dinner last night. But for most local people, the East German leader remains the man who divided Germany from German by building the infamous Berlin Wall.

"From roof mender to Wall builder," jeered right-wing protesters jostling with the red flag-carrying local Communists.

In a private ceremony away from prying eyes, Herr Honecker stood on a freshly swept red gravel path in the Wiebelskirchen cemetery with his head bowed to pay homage to his father and mother. A simple black marble gravestone says simply "Family of Wilhelm Honecker". Herr Honecker's father, a miner, taught the future East German leader his ideological faith in the 1920s.

Herr Honecker then paid a private visit to his sister, Frau Gertrude Hoppstadter.

Condition of Siamese twin boys 'improves'

Baltimore (Reuters) — The condition of seven-month-old West German Siamese twins, separated four days ago, improved yesterday with swellings in their trunks decreasing, a hospital spokesman said.

Patrick and Benjamin Binder from Ulm remained in a drug-induced coma at Johns Hopkins Hospital and doctors said it would be maintained for another two to four days to help them to recover from the effects of the surgery.

Hammer deal

Peking (Reuters) — The American industrialist, Mr Armand Hammer, has opened China's largest open-pit coal mine, an export venture in the northern province of Shanxi, with an annual capacity of more than 15 million tonnes.

Leaders freed

Assunção, Paraguay (AP) — Nine of 10 opposition leaders jailed since last month on charges of disturbing the peace have been freed but police used a water cannon to break up a protest by hospital doctors over the attempted arrest of a colleague.

Sikh shot

Delhi (AFP) — Security forces shot dead Bagel Singh, a Sikh separatist leader, and arrested an accomplice in Punjab.

UN post

Stockholm (Reuters) — Mr Hans Holmér, the controversial former head of the unsuccessful Olof Palme murder inquiry, is to investigate drug trafficking for the UN, the Swedish Government has announced.

Tambo talks

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, has invited Mr Oliver Tambo, the leader of the banned African National Congress, to meet him in London next week.

Pulling aside the Iron Curtain

Nato benefits from military glasnost

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Large-scale military exercises on either side of the Iron Curtain are being opened up to observation by the opposing alliances in a regular pattern which diplomats here believe will enhance the prospects of the superpowers agreeing on verification procedures for nuclear arms accords.

A well-placed Western source told *The Times* that Nato countries, including Britain, had been invited to send two observers apiece to Soviet exercises in the southern republic of Georgia later this month which will involve 13,000 soldiers.

Yesterday a four-man military inspection team from Britain, led by a brigadier, flew to East Berlin for the first British "challenge inspection" of Eastern bloc exercises under the terms of the 1986 Stockholm European Security Agreement, which is the basis for the sudden lifting of military secrecy.

It is understood that Britain will be sending a senior diplomat from its Moscow embassy and a military expert from London to attend the five days of exercises in Georgia.

As yet, the Soviet Union has not used its reciprocal right under the agreement to mount a spot check of a Nato exercise

in Western Europe, but such a move is expected soon. The accord permits such a challenge if one side has reason to believe there has been a breach of the terms, such as the deployment of more than 17,000 men without the granting of observer status.

Although some Westerners attending the Lvov exercise reported privately to their governments that the Soviet side was not abiding strictly by the rules, in general the new system of observation and spot inspection is claimed by both Western and Soviet officials here to be working well.

Under the terms of the accord, the Warsaw Pact and Nato countries will exchange official calendars in November, notifying all planned exercises involving more than 13,000 men due to take place in 1987-88.

The new Soviet attitude is being dubbed "military glasnost" by some Soviet officials. It was extended yesterday when Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the chief Kremlin spokesman, announced that representatives of the states taking part in the Geneva talks on eliminating chemical weapons are being invited to a Soviet military base next month.

Spectrum, page 12

Schluter reshuffle delights Danes

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Mr Poul Schluter, the Danish Prime Minister, yesterday announced the formation of his third centre-right minority coalition Government, ending two days of political tension after the unclear result of Tuesday's general election.

The move came after overnight consultations between Mr Schluter, Denmark's first conservative Prime Minister of the century, and the leaders of the other three parties in his former four-party minority coalition: the Liberals, the Christian People's Party and the Central Democrats.

Mr Schluter resigned on Wednesday morning after his centre-right coalition suffered a setback in the election, losing seven seats in the 179-seat Folketing. He was asked later that day by Queen Margrethe to form a new government on the recommendation of six of the nine leaders of the other parliamentary parties.

Mr Schluter's new Cabinet consists of 22 members, with six new ministers and two new ministries. The portfolios for the economy, agriculture, taxation, defence, the interior and housing were reshuffled.

There was general relief that the Government was to continue after the dramatic and

confused result in the election, which left the incumbent centre-right coalition weakened and the Socialist opposition unable to form an alternative government.

Prices on the stock market strengthened and the krona firmed on currency markets despite nervousness about the stability and durability of the new administration. Mr Schluter will now present his administration's programme for the coming year to Parliament on October 1.

The full Cabinet list is: Prime Minister Poul Schluter, Foreign Affairs Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Finance Palle Simonsen, Justice Niim-Hansen, Economic Co-ordination Erhard Jakobsen, Economy Knud Enggaard, Environment Christian Christensen, Education & Research Bertel Haarder, Social Affairs Mrs Mimi Stilling-Jakobsen, Church Affairs Mrs Mette Nilsen, Energy Svend Erik Hvamstad, Fisheries & Nordic Co-operation Lars Gammelgaard, Labour Henning Dyrholm, Interior Thor Pedersen, Culture & Communications J.P. Clausen, Industry Nils Wühlgen, Transport Gerde Nør Christensen, Taxation Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Health Mrs Agnete Lauritsen, Agriculture Laurits Tjørns, Defence Bertel Johan Collet, Housing Flemming Kolof-Svendsen.

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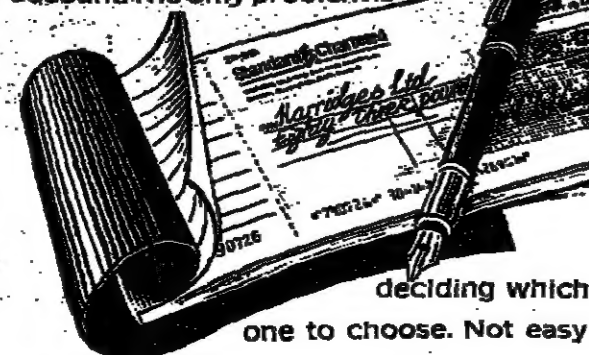
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Despair grips Bangladesh as floodwaters rise again

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

The agony of flood-ravaged Bangladesh was prolonged yesterday along the banks of half a dozen rivers as the waters once more began rising.

Fed by additional rains across the border in India, the rivers Ganges (which becomes the Padma or Lotus as it crosses the border) and Brahmaputra and the lesser known streams of the Gori, Bhagokhun, Mahananda, Lakha and Kushara broke their banks once more and began causing more damage — although on a far smaller scale than the earlier inundations.

"It is only those areas beside the banks of the rivers which are affected," said a military spokesman of the Flood Control Monitoring Unit in the presidential secretariat here. But although they might be small in scale the new floods have been causing acute de-

spair among the people affected.

"The water had still not gone away in the area I visited, but there was some hope when it began to recede," said Mr Muhammad Mobin, the flood relief co-ordinator for the Irish charity Concern, who has spent the past 10 days in the Padma area, alongside the river. "When it began to rise again people's hope disappeared. At this rate their fields will still be under water in two months' time."

Mr Mobin said that in the areas he visited people had taken to living in trees and along embankments in temporary shelters. "Without emergency relief," he said "these people have no means of survival."

Concern has just been given £30,000 by the British Government to assist in its relief

work and has also been lent a speedboat, so that it can more effectively move around the flooded areas.

Elsewhere in the newly flooded districts it was reported yesterday that people who had begun repairing their houses, shattered by the earlier floods, have returned to the refugee camps, where they may at least be assured of a dry place to rest and some emergency rations.

The second transplanting of paddy seedlings which was expected to do much to rescue the lost harvest is being washed away again, and with the desperate shortage of seedlings is unlikely to be repeated when the floods finally go down. In any case September 15 is traditionally the last day by which rice for the winter harvest must be planted.

The plight of cattle, ma-

rounded for weeks in the floods and unable to forage for fodder has been alarming several observers. Subsidized dairy projects are being badly affected.

The distribution of grain from the ports to fulfil the promise of the country's leader, President Ershad, that no one shall starve, is being organized so that the stocks are moved with the most urgent priority.

The Army has been put in control of the grain movement and trucks and railway wagons are being commandeered into convoys and bureaucratic controls are being slashed. President Ershad, visiting the main port of Chittagong, directed the setting up of a food situation and movement monitoring organization in the capital, with local subsidiaries in Chittagong and Mongla, the other big port.



French police patrolling in Nouméa, the capital of New Caledonia, as the islanders await Sunday's referendum to decide whether the Pacific territory should be independent.

Riot police ready as French islands decide their future

From Stephen Taylor, Nouméa, New Caledonia

On a languid mid-afternoon in the South Pacific yesterday, the elite of France's much-feared CRS riot police lounged beneath the palms of the Place des Cocotiers (Coconut Square).

This town of boutiques and cafés lies at the southern tip of one of the Pacific's largest islands. But the coconut palms and sub-tropical blossoming trees line neat streets with names like Avenue Maréchal Foch and Rue d'Austerlitz. And for every Melanesian face in Nouméa, there are Gallic people who speak passionately of links to the land across the world which they refer to as the *Métropole*.

These contrasting — indeed, conflicting — sides of New Caledonia come face-to-face in a referendum on Sunday, when one of the world's last dependencies will answer whether it wants independence or will remain in the bosom of France.

The result is a foregone conclusion. As in neighbouring Fiji, the indigenous Melanesians, known here as Kanaks, have been reduced to a minority in their own land. The main Kanak independence party, the FNILS, has lobbied for changes to the voting criteria to even up its demographic handicap and, having failed to achieve that, is urging a boycott of the referendum. The French settlers — the *Caldoches* — will have their way on Sunday, at least for the time being.

It is quiet in the Place des Cocotiers now, but the presence of the CRS is a result of Kanak-Caldoche hostility, which has cost about 20 lives in sporadic violence over the past four years, and which may yet flare up during the next few days.

Last month there were threatening to get out of hand again. A peaceful, but illegal, Kanak demonstration in the square was set upon by local gendarmes with batons, injuring a dozen or so people, including women and children.

President Mitterrand was reported to have been distressed by film of the incident. Since then, the CRS has snuffed out demonstrations before they have had a chance to develop into trouble.

Still, there is considerable potential for violence. Among the 145,000 population there are an estimated 40,000 rifles, mainly in right-wing Caldoche hands. Some 8,000 French soldiers, paramilitary and police, are in the territory and, the majority of them in the indigenous strongholds outside the capital where they have orders to break up any attempt by the Kanak independence party to start a "mobilisation march" against the referendum.

M Jean-Marie Tjibaou, the leader of the Kanak independence party, who lost two brothers killed in an ambush by Caldoche extremists in 1984, says a policy of non-violence in pursuit of independence cannot be maintained.

indefinitely. But, in the meantime, the party continues to follow a moderate course, evidenced by the pausing last month of a firebrand proposing close links with Libya.

There are plenty of Caldoches, including the vociferous local branch of the French National Front, who think M Tjibaou a dangerous extremist. Even M Jacques Lafleur, leader of the main settler party, the RUCR, shudders at the very idea of independence. "Many Melanesians who know what is happening next door in Vanuatu and Fiji hope France will stay here for a long time to come," he says.

M Lafleur's party staged a vivid rally in support of retaining links with France on Wednesday, involving a crowd of about 15,000, waving the tricolour flag and wearing T-shirts emblazoned *Pour La Liberté*.

And, in a live link-up with Paris, M Bernard Foss, the Minister for Overseas Territories, told the Caldoches they were needed by France, "today more than ever".

Despite the heady francophone atmosphere, it was a genuinely multiracial gathering. As well as Europeans, there were Polynesians, Vietnamese and Indonesians — other ethnic groups encouraged by France to migrate here in the 1960s and 1970s in order to create a settler majority.

It was a policy that created regional suspicion towards France, and subsequent events have deepened that into serious ill-will. Behind the present exercise in New Caledonia lies a potential for regional destabilization which worries Australia and New Zealand.

One of the most outspoken critics of France, Father Walter Lini, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, said in an interview with *The Times* this week: "People ask why we are prepared to deal with Libya. Our view is that the Libyans may be terrorists in Europe, but they are not here. The terrorists of the Pacific are the French — look at the Rainbow Warrior, look at the nuclear testing."

"At this stage, it is very difficult to see a peaceful transition to independence in New Caledonia."

Australian pits hit by strike

From Tony Dumboulas, Melbourne

Australia's ailing coal industry suffering from falling prices and a world glut, could face permanent damage as a result of a national miners' strike. About 30,000 miners started a seven-day stoppage at midnight on Wednesday in an attempt to force the Federal Government to implement its long-term strategy for the industry.

Japan is Australia's largest coal customer and two Japanese bulk coal carriers have been diverted from the New South Wales port of Newcastle in the past two days. Miners in the Hunter Valley, which ships coal to Newcastle, went on strike last Friday. They were joined on Wednesday by miners in the rest of the country.

Mr Paul Davies, a spokesman for the NSW Coal Association, said that in 24 hours Newcastle had lost coal sales of 250,000 tonnes worth £5 million. The ships' diversion clearly indicated Japanese concern about Newcastle, which had a poor industrial relations record, he said.

Coal reserves in Queensland, the other big coal producing state, are believed to be sufficient to maintain exports for up to a month.

Mining unions have served notice of further industrial action unless their demands for a National Coal Authority with marketing powers are met. The slump in world prices and a glut of coal has led to redundancies with mine owners saying that more jobs will be lost unless world prices pick up.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions has thrown its support behind the striking miners by coming out in support of the establishment of a National Coal Authority despite the Federal Government ruling out any possibility of such a body being set up.

Aquino is advised by crisis team

From Humphrey Hawkesley, Manila

President Aquino yesterday chaired a meeting of a newly formed emergency committee — the Council of State — after the resignation of her entire Cabinet on Wednesday.

The council was formed earlier this week to give Mrs Aquino a broad base of advice from selected ministers and church and military leaders after the abortive coup two weeks ago.

The presidential Press Secretary, Mr Teodoro Benigno, said that the main issue under discussion was how to improve the Philippines Government's relationship with the armed forces. At the same time, the Italian Ambassador to the Philippines, Signor Mario Crema, said Mrs Aquino had postponed next month's planned visit to Italy because of the political crisis in her country.

Mrs Aquino has yet to decide which of her Cabinet ministers' resignations she will accept. Before the council meeting yesterday, she said she would make her decisions "in a matter of a few days, probably during the weekend."

The Cabinet member at the centre of the crisis is the Executive Secretary, Mr Joker Arroyo, a human rights lawyer who is under pressure from the military and the business community to step down. He is seen as heading a left-of-centre group of ministers and as isolating Mrs Aquino from all Cabinet advice except his own.

Mr Arroyo was not at the council meeting although he is a council member. But the Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr José Concepcion, who was the first minister to submit his resignation, was there. Mr Concepcion leads a pro-business, right-of-centre group of ministers who want to see Mr Arroyo dismissed.

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A secondhand sailing boat, say two to three years old, might cost between £25,000 and £30,000, but this would include all the additional on-board gear, so it is not surprising that sales of secondhand boats have also risen in 1987. A feature of the Southampton Boat Show is the Moody SBC used boat show, now in its ninth year, which will be running at Moody's Marina in Swanwick from September 12 to 20.

The age range is from seven (the youngest this year) to 70. Emsworth has had several pupils in their seventies and sailing is clearly becoming more and more popular with retired people who

Not only are waterspouts of all kinds somewhat expensive, they can give rise to unfortunate character traits. That amiable, blue-eyed skipper you meet in the Yacht Club bay will turn into a latter-day Captain Blubb the minute the last line is cast off from the jerky, and remain a fiend incarnate until you tie up again. Fortunately a walk round the Southampton Boat Show will reveal every kind of craft for every kind of sailor, from the total novice to the lone circumnavigator. Every class of boat is represented, and as Ratty has sagely remarked, "there is nothing, absolutely nothing, quite so well worth doing as simply messing about in boats."



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Britain's onwardly-mobile society

Last year more than two million families moved home, causing a huge impact not only on prices, but also on the communities to which they moved – and on those they left behind. Sally Brompton reports

Suddenly, Britain is on the move. Barbara Hinton and her husband, Ian, can testify to that. They have spent the past two and a half years house hunting. During that time they have registered with 45 estate agents in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, viewed about 60 properties, and seen the price which they were prepared to pay rise from £105,000 to more than £150,000.

None of the three offers they have made on houses has been accepted – not even when they went £20,000 above the asking price. "You make up your mind as to what you want before you start looking and then you have to change it and change it," Barbara says. By planning to retire to the country after nearly 30 years of living on a sought-after estate in south-west London, they have the luxury of not being in a hurry.

The fact that the Hintons are still looking for somewhere to live is an indication of the current demand for middle-income homes among second-, third- and fourth-time buyers.

Last year, 2,110,000 families moved, 20 per cent choosing new homes more than 10 miles away and 4 per cent moving more than 200 miles. Half were under 35 years of age and 11 per cent over 55. They had spent, on average, less than seven years in their former homes. Between them they borrowed almost £50 billion, a 56 per cent increase in two years, representing an average new mortgage loan of £37,800.

The reasons for this mass mobility are various and regional but they divide lightly into two main categories – those who move from necessity and those who move on a whim. The first group is mainly job-orientated, although it includes growing families in search of bigger and better accommodation and elderly people in need of less; the second group includes retiring couples who tend to go south or west to the coast for warmer weather, the young and middle-aged heading for the country, or people purely interested in trading upwards.

The days when the benefits of home-ownership were con-

finer to having a roof over one's head are long gone. In the words of Peter Miller of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors: "Now that borrowing is easy, young people want to buy their own place and, once established on the property ladder, they become aware they must move on in order to keep pace with property prices."

Trevor Keat, junior vice president of the National

those established in the housing system and those hoping to break into it," says Professor Tony Travis, director of the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Birmingham.

However, there are exceptions to every trend. Merrill and Isabel Tumney recently sold their three-bedroom terrace house in Ealing for £83,500 to move with their two small children to the Lake

"Our retirement zones are becoming problem areas," says Travis. "In America – where people move at a rate which is socially very destructive – they have to build in all sorts of mechanisms to ensure that everyone doesn't feel as if they are strangers."

"They have reception committees for newcomers. In Britain, the reality is that we are moving more than we were but we haven't started developing these mechanisms to help people fit in." Certainly, the break up of local communities is not confined to Cornish fishing villages and rural Wales, both the classic victims of the second-home syndrome.

"Ten years ago we were looking at new towns, planned population expansion areas where a high percentage of the population was not born in that town," says Mike Coombes, senior research associate at Newcastle University's Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies.

"The same is now true of smaller country towns which are proving attractive to the migrant population. Many of those in the south-east which are the most attractive to migrants are actually trying to curtail any more movement by the use of local planning policies, housing developments and so on."

Coombes also points to the problems brought about by mass migration – particularly in the case of those moving south in search of work – on the communities left behind. "It is mostly the more able people who migrate. Those who have got more get-up-and-go, get up and go. The population left behind in a depressed area is that which is less able to improve the property."

In other words, the rich areas become richer while the poor ones are drained of the few assets that they possess. Travis refers to a growing imbalance in the composition of many of the areas from which people are migrating, with certain cities in Yorkshire and the north-east "changing their composition significantly."

Communities made up of the poor and elderly cost more

THE TIMES PROPERTY GUIDE

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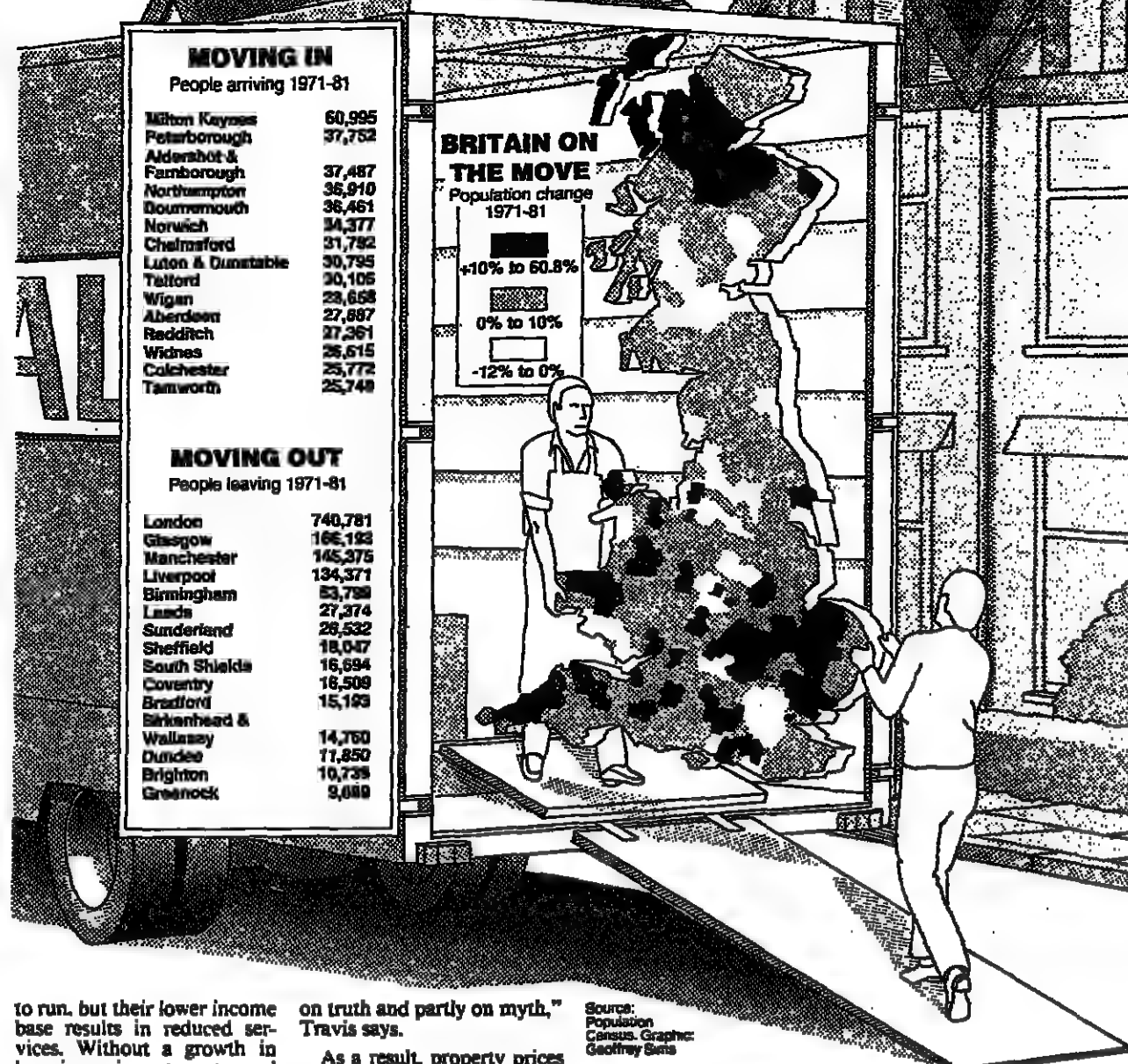
Association of Estate Agents, refers to what he describes as the Dallas syndrome: "A greater awareness of luxury, which makes more and more people want to move to attain it to increase the quality and style of their life."

A curious side effect of this pursuit of residential perfection is the birth of a generation which can ill-afford to live up to the lavishness of their homes – let alone heat the extra rooms. While the job rush continues from north to south, the problems of trying to gain a foothold on the buying ladder in the south-east are enormous.

"There is a growing polarity in places like London between



Quality street: the Tumney family, happier in the north



to run, but their lower income base results in reduced services. Without a growth in housing, investment and employment, such areas are doomed.

Inevitably, too, there are boom areas such as the affluent south-east commuter belt known as the M4 corridor, Hampshire, East Anglia and select parts of the south-west. Even derelict barns have become big business in these parts with firms of builders buying them up to yuppyify them and re-sell them for at least £200,000.

"People move to these areas because they perceive more opportunities, a better climate, better living conditions, beliefs which are based partly

on truth and partly on myth," Travis says.

As a result, property prices in the south-east are rising at the same rate as those in Greater London – 5.1 per cent for the first quarter of 1987, compared to 0.8 per cent in the north-west.

While a new detached house in the south-east costs an average £91,441, the same property in Yorkshire would be £46,355. But not everyone is deserting the inner cities for the countryside. Indeed, the current development of decaying city areas – such as London's revitalized dockland – is providing a lifeline for run-down communities.

Source: Population Census, Graphic: Geoffrey Bates

"Every year since 1980, middle-income households – particularly the younger ones – have been going back into these areas as part of a general urban regeneration policy," says Professor Duncan MacLennan, director of the Centre of Housing Research at the University of Glasgow. "They diversify the population and add to local service demands and people seem to integrate quite well."

In search of a double-fronted house with large garden, Jill and John Reynolds picked on Crouch End, an up-and-coming area of north

London. They were able to spend £160,000 on their new home. The move cost them an additional £9,000 in fees and stamp duty. The whole thing took about 15 months, during which time the Reynolds, who are both in their early 40s, suffered the trauma of losing both the house they originally wanted and their first purchaser, and having to resist the approaches of a gazumper.

In spite of all that, John is already talking of moving again – this time to the country.

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Victory for the General

War in Europe was officially declared on Wednesday at 5.45am and the first attack by the enemy, an air raid, was launched at lunchtime. General Sir Martin Farndale, a veteran artillery man and the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR), resolved to show the world, and in particular the visiting group of Warsaw Pact observers, what Nato troops were made of.

The general, in charge of Exercise Certain Strike which will run all next week in Germany, and for which the declaration of war was the beginning of the scenario, has devised the most complex series of tactical moves ever developed for a Nato war game. If God and the German farmers are willing, he intends to prove that his carefully formulated manoeuvres will successfully hold back "the enemy" to give him time to mount a devastating counterstroke.

General Martin, as his brigadiers and colonels like to call him, does not have the look of a Patton or a Rommel. His hair is slightly untidy, at the back he talks in a quiet, unblinking manner. But he is one of Nato's most experienced soldiers and he is the first non-American commander of the exercise.

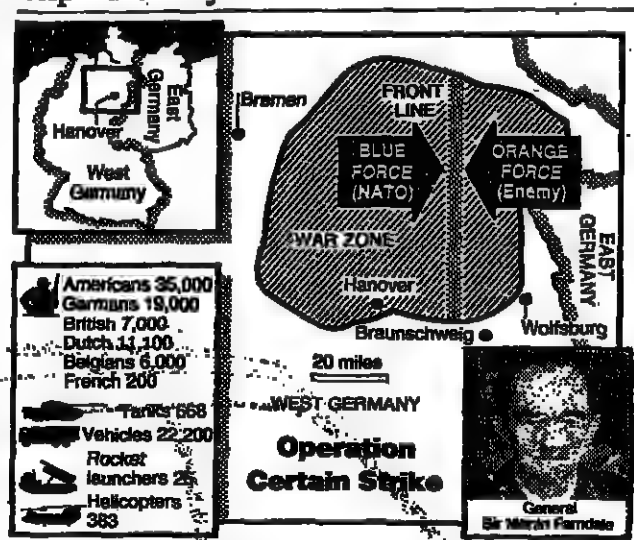
'An exercise like this all depends on the farmers'

inland to the German mastership. The exercise is a joint effort of the US Army and the British Army of the Rhine.

Exercise Certain Strike, which begins on Monday morning in the area of Hanover, close to a mock German border, is Farndale's brainchild. He has been developing it for more than 20 years and readily admits that it would be easier to plan for a real war because at least the enemy would do their own thing. As the director of the exercise, he has had to create the war and plot the moves of both sides. There is room for only a little flexibility.

"In war, I would have various options for placing the American reinforcements but in an exercise like this, it all depends on the farmers. And

As Nato prepares for its most complex exercise ever, the man who planned it explains why a real war would be easier



there are many other areas that are out of bounds, such as heavy spoils and reserves," he says.

Certain Strike is the first training stage of the overall Reforger (The Return of Forces to Germany) Exercise which is held every year, and this year it will involve the largest reinforcement of American troops since the D-Day landings of 1944.

Nearly 80,000 troops from six nations will be involved, including 35,000 Americans and 7,000 British. The aim of Certain Strike is to practice plans "and to establish a good working relationship between the two main NATO forces."

The exercise, which involves the famous "Hell on Wheels" 2nd Armoured Division with their M1 main battle tanks that can travel at 45 mph on the road, will be at Farndale's disposal. His most difficult task will be to move two American divisions right through friendly West German logistics lines to the Hanover area. He also has to deploy nearly 400 helicopters through some of Europe's busiest air space.

Farndale will be commander of both Orange forces, about 15,000 enemy troops, played by the Dutch, British and Belgians with a small force of 200 French SAS-type

how you live the story. My day starts at 3am so that I can get everything into gear before dawn. At the end of the day I try to turn in at about 8.30pm. It's not dissimilar to what it would be like in war."

Apart from the obvious benefits of putting into practice the theory of battle, Farndale has realized that during the two years of planning, he and his Nato partners have forged much closer links.

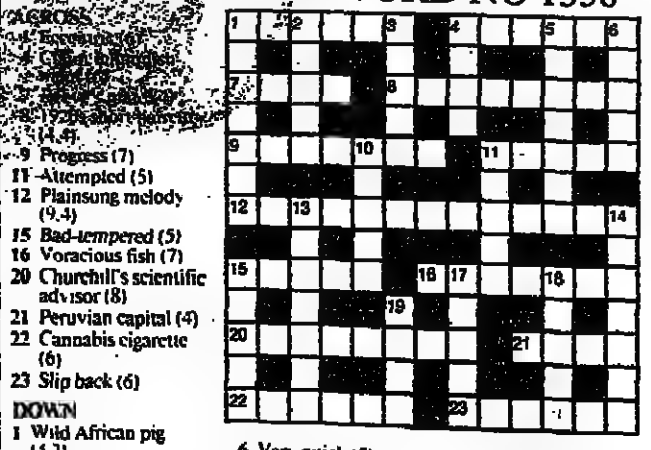
He says there is now greater cohesion among the different Nato forces in Europe. The presence of 200 French special forces troops is also remarkable. It's the first time they've taken part in a Nato exercise since the 1960s.

For Farndale, Exercise Certain Strike will be his final coup de theatre. Three weeks after it finishes on September 24, he will retire from the Army.

After a lifetime in the Army – he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1948 and rose to command BAOR in 1985 – he does not know what the future holds for him. But at least he will have more time to devote to his main hobby – military history.

Michael Evans

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SPECTRUM 2

After the carnage, Ruth Gledhill joins the M4 police and finds drivers' memories are short

When will they learn?

The M4 was back to normal yesterday, in more ways than one. For police patrolling the motorway, it was as if the bloodiest accident they had seen for years had never happened. The only sign that four people had been killed and 72 injured as a result of an extraordinary piece of reckless driving was the macabre sight of dozens of drivers endangering themselves by slowing to examine the remains of the wreckage.

Just a mile from the site of the accident at the Heston service station, cars could be seen speeding some of them above 100mph. A few miles away, a driver was booked for speeding at 105mph.

No drivers were using the emergency crossing point where the driver of a blue box van brought carnage to the motorway on Wednesday by attempting a disastrous U-turn across oncoming traffic.

Police agreed that if the warning cones had not been placed across the gap in the barrier, large numbers of

'It was the sheer, absolute stupidity of it that got to me'

drivers would, as usual, have been taking the dangerous short-cut back to London — and this just 300 yards from a junction where they could turn in safety. One witness to the accident said yesterday: "I knew the man was going to do it. I saw him indicating to the right. When I sat in the cafeteria having lunch every day, I see drivers crossing there all the time."

The first police officer on the scene was PC John Chapman, who has been patrolling this southern stretch of the M4 since it opened in 1963. It was not the worst accident he and his colleague PC Dave Minskip had seen, and they are sure it will not be the last — but they agreed it was one of the bloodiest.

The Times photographer Alan Weiler and I accompanied the two officers on patrol to discover motorway conditions for ourselves. On the M4, the scene of more than 1,000 reported accidents a year, drivers sped past the patrol car at speeds of 100mph plus. Latest figures show that 140,000 cars use the M4 each day. That figure is now believed to be over 150,000. The nearby M25, Europe's busiest motorway, carries 156,000 cars per day.

PC Chapman arrived at the accident four minutes after it happened at 2pm on Wednesday. "I received a call warning of a horrendous accident. It was terrible, a horrible bloody mess. When I realized how it



Scene of the accident: drivers (above) speed past the gap in the motorway barrier where the fatal crash occurred; and (right) the wreckage shortly after a van driver had attempted a U-turn

had happened, I felt so angry. I just could not understand the mentality of someone who could do something like that. It was the sheer absolute stupidity of it that got to me. People know they are not supposed to use the emergency crossing point.

"It was so silly, it makes me sick just to think about it. We were all covered in blood. There were bodies lying around and grown men screaming. My first thought was Christ, how could this happen." His report took him 10 hours to complete.

Back on the road, both PCs were shocked by the small amount of difference the accident had made to

drivers' behaviour. Over the radio came a report of one driver pulled up doing 105mph. Seconds later, another report crackled over of a high-speed chase down the M4. Then our attention was drawn to two cars ahead racing at speeds of above 100mph. They both slowed down on the instant they spotted the distinctive police Rover.

Both officers lay the blame for the majority of accidents on speed. But people also take extraordinary risks, they say. In the past few months alone they have discovered drivers changing tyres in the fast lane, driving the wrong way up a slip road, and stopping in the fast lane to

exchange details after a minor accident.

"People just do not realize how dangerous a motorway can be," PC Chapman said. As he spoke, a Porsche zipped past an articulated lorry — on an inside lane. A red Montego squeezed past the car in front with less than a yard to spare. A taxi driver hung on to the end of the car in front with a couple of feet to spare at a speed of 60mph. Heavy articulated lorries intimidated smaller vehicles by closing in on them with gaps of a few yards.

But it is the increasing number of U-turns, as typified by Wednesday's crash, which most concern the police

officers. "It is depressing when, if somebody is caught and it does reach the magistrates' court, all they get is a fine of £30 or £40."

"You would have thought that all these accidents would serve as a warning, that driving on the motorway would get better. It hasn't, it is much, much worse than it has ever been. In less than a week, this whole incident will be completely forgotten, except by the people who were involved," PC Minskip said. He pointed out a battered crash barrier, witness to frequent collisions. Even the wall at the Heston service station is chipped and marked where cars travelling too fast as they left the motorway have failed to stop in time.

The two officers recalled another recent pile-up. "We had dealt with one crash involving two cars and pulled them onto the hard shoulder. The road was soaking wet and cars were speeding along, nose to tail. I just knew it was going to happen," said PC Chapman. "Suddenly, all

'In a week this will be forgotten, except by the people involved'

the cars were sliding together down the road, there was one bang after another, they were all going too fast. No one was hurt but 11 cars were wrecked."

At another nearby junction, three lorries have overturned in less than a year on one bend. Bent lamp-posts and battered barriers are frequent reminders of the repeated crashes. "If a motorist gets from A to B without hitting anything, or without going through a red light, he thinks he has a good day," says PC Minskip. "Drivers should demand better standards of themselves than that. The motorway is a safe road. But too many people abuse it. Speed is the worst offence. The yuppies in their fast cars are the worst offenders."

He is slightly bitter that his own police car is unable to top 120mph.

"We just have not got the facilities to catch the faster cars." He illustrated how they settle for merely giving them a fright. With the patrol car parked on the hard shoulder, PC Chapman held out a black lamp which resembles a radar gun. The effect on the speeding drivers was instant.

A BMW motorbike sped past at a speed which topped 100mph, slowing down only when he spotted the police car. This was at the exact spot of the accident.

"I don't believe it will ever get better," said PC Chapman, "but I suppose if it did, we would both be out of a job."

Fishing for compliments

How the much-missed halibut could find its way back to our dinner tables

The life and hard times of the halibut have been such that to most people its delectable taste is at best a fond memory. Once thousands of tons of the formidable flatfish, some weighing more than 500lb, were landed at ports like Aberdeen, and trawler skippers would be photographed beside enormous specimens up to six feet long.

But after the Second World War overfishing led to a drastic decline, and now the halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*), a North Atlantic species slow to grow and to reach sexual maturity, has become rare.

With halibut fetching up to £2 a pound at Billingsgate, the Sea Fish Industry Authority (SFIA) is hopeful that it can farm stocks in much the same way as salmon. A flotilla of "test tube" fish in a tank in their Scottish marine farming unit are the product of six years' research and the intended founding fathers and mothers of a race of captive halibut.

Staff at the unit at Ardtoe, 30 miles from Fort William on the west coast of Scotland, stripped two million eggs from one of their adult females, fertilized them and incubated about 700,000, from which 20,000 larvae emerged. Twelve remain, reflecting the survival rates that apply in the ocean.

Alan Hopper, technical director of the SFIA, said: "It is a bit like the first human transplant — we have a survivor. It is a slow process. We have got them from being dependent on food from the egg sac to feeding for themselves."

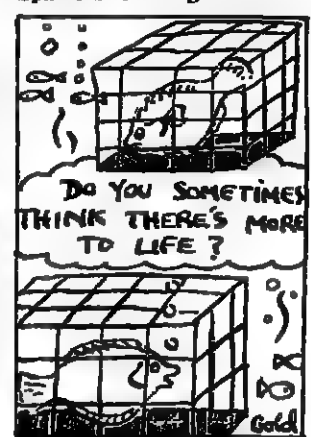
The halibut will eventually be kept in cages immersed in sea lochs and the inlet at Ardtoe. Because halibut are bottom-living fish, they would not be happy with a cage floor made of bars and will have to be provided with a dark, opaque floor.

They will probably be reared to the diameter of a plate-sized Dover sole. But all

authorities seem to agree that, at any reasonable size, it is a delicious fish with firm flesh which bakes well and does not dry out.

"The fish farming industry needs to diversify because the demand and price for salmon and salmon trout fluctuates. It is like farming on land and concentrating on pigs or lamb to the exclusion of everything else," Hopper says.

If all goes well, the prospects for new jobs are bright. Up to 1,000 people are already employed in an industry which produces 15,000 tonnes of salmon each year at £4,000 a tonne. Turbot, a relative of the halibut which prefers warmer water, is already farmed in the Mediterranean, particularly by the Spanish. Norwegian biologists are working on the



halibut and the SFIA is concerned that a lack of investment may leave Britain lagging behind.

Roaming at depths of 50-2,000 metres, but making hunting forays into the upper regions, halibut prey on fish as large as haddock and herring. It would not be economic to feed them whole fish so a substitute will need to be devised.

If the nursery halibut dislike their new diet, a generation of post-war children, given retilled doses of halibut oil, may feel justice has at last been done.

John A. Hill

COMFORTABLE WITH POWER

To be truly comfortable a car needs power, because power takes the tension out of driving. It makes overtaking safer and long journeys much less tiring. Which is one reason why the Sierra Sapphire Gt16, pictured here, is so effortless to drive.

Thanks to fuel injection, and to its very sophisticated 'brain' — the little computer that manages the engine's performance — its engine develops plenty of power — 115 PS. To make driving even easier, you've the choice of a 5-speed manual gearbox or the optional 4-speed automatic, both of which have high top gears to keep revs down on motorways. Nice and quiet that. And the suspension, while smooth, is reassuringly firm, which makes the Sapphire a pleasure to handle.

Other notable features? This year's Sierras have more powerful headlights and deeper side windows which give the car a lighter, more spacious feeling as well as better visibility. And this Gt16 enjoys all the standard equipment listed on the right.

One final point, all Ford Sierras are now available with anti-lock brakes. You may not need them very often but, isn't it comforting to know, if ever you do have to brake really hard, it's in your power.



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THE TIMES
DIARY

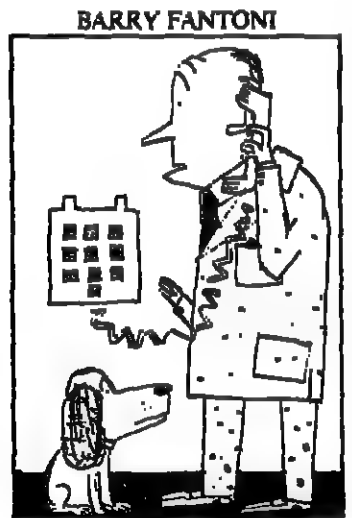
Depressed
front

Why hasn't Lord Cledwyn, the Labour opposition leader, announced a reorganization of his front bench since the general election — an obvious opportunity for the Lords to show its new blood? Probably because he was hoping for an influx of suitable candidates of shadow spokesman calibre in the Dissolution Honours, announced at the end of July. In the event he was rewarded with Michael Cocks, a former chief whip; Jack Dorman, a former parliamentary party chairman; and Dame Judith Hart, who ran the Overseas Development ministry in the 1970s. Other additions to the team were Douglas Jay who, at 80, will probably be a less active member than some of his colleagues, and Roy Mason, the former Northern Ireland Secretary. The star new boy of the team is Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, ennobled last Easter, on whom Labour is placing its hopes in dealing with the Criminal Justice Bill in the next session, when he is likely to join Labour's Home Office team in the Upper House.

● Former Tory backbencher Stefan Terlecki, who lost his Cardiff seat in June, is clinging to his old title. He is using up his House of Commons stationery — by simply typing "ex" in front of MP. "I had a few sheets left," he says. Perhaps he should also add PC — Private Citizen.

Mersey beak

Shrewsbury School can do odd things for a man's social conscience — like help him to develop one. Headmaster Simon Langdale has decided to quit at the end of the academic year for a job in the Rank Foundation, a charity set up by the film mogul, J. Arthur Rank, which sponsors a number of youth projects. Langdale tells me he found the job through Shrewsbury House in Liverpool, one of the school's community projects, where he met a foundation organizer. The same youth club can take some credit, it seems, for originally inspiring Michael Heseltine's bleeding heart. Though Heseltine is best remembered at Shrewsbury for buying other boys' empty pop bottles half price and collecting the deposits, Langdale says: "Visiting the club was Michael Heseltine's first experience of Merseyside." While Heseltine became a short-term minister for the city, Langdale's predecessor ended up at Eton.



BARRY FANTONI
"It's BT's new information service — they give the latest number of complaints"

Example

The Conservative Party's refusal to allow Jean-Marie Le Pen into its conference next month (PM's Monday) has not satisfied Labour MP David Winnick. He has now written to Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, asking him not to let the French National Front leader through immigration. Winnick, who hopes the matter will be raised at the Labour party conference later this month, says it is shocking that Le Pen should be invited to address a Tory fringe meeting by Sir Alfred Sherman, "a prominent Conservative and a former adviser to the Prime Minister." Banning Le Pen on the grounds of the public good has, he claims, a recent precedent. To protests from Labour party backbenchers, Hurd forbade the entry of Louis Farrakhan, an American black rights leader who has made anti-semitic speeches, and who had been invited to London in January by the Hackney Black People's Association.

Space age

A footnote in the complete history of the SDP. The day after David Owen announced his resignation as leader, he surprised officials at the party's Cowley Street headquarters by insisting on addressing one of its regular staff meetings. Party workers, some of whom had received letters ending their temporary contracts that very morning, listened in growing amazement as Owen sketched his political vision. The pact with the Liberals was dead and gone, he told them; indeed, he had wished to end it the day after the general election. His decision to quit, taken only on the morning of the ballot result, had brought a smile to his wife's face — Debbie being even more firmly set against a joint party than he. As for the future: "I want to go off into space to devise policies for the 1990s," he told them.

PHS

Merger: new
balancing act
for Steel

by Robin Oakley

Political Editor

The Liberal assembly starting this weekend will vote overwhelmingly in favour of a merger with the SDP. But the party and its leader, David Steel, have tightropes to walk in Harrogate. The debates will be less about whether to merge than what the terms should be, how much policy should be agreed before the parties get together and the kind of constitution that should rule the new Alliance hybrid. That leaves plenty of room for trip-ups. And speakers will be addressing not only the audience within the assembly but both factions in the SDP as well.

The task is to ensure that as many Social Democrats as possible are kept out of David Owen's separatist embrace. For a start that should rule out any triumphalist talk about swallowing the SDP. The Association of Liberal Councilors, which might have been tempted, are wary enough politicians to resist the urge. But will everybody?

Two things will help. First, the resentment built up over the years by the representation of Steel as Owen's puppet — the sort of resentment that used to lead Liberals to draw Hitler moustaches on Owen posters — has largely been diminished by Steel's ruthlessly fast footwork since the election; the Liberals know this debate began on their terms. Second, criticisms can be fixed on the person of Dr Owen, who has made his own distaste for the Liberals plain enough, without the sentiments appearing anti-SDP. But it will need more than nice words about the SDP to bring over the doubters. Policy is what matters.

Senior Liberals say that policy must be settled by the members of the new party itself, once it is formed. They insist that while there must be a preamble to its constitution, that cannot be ex-

pected to get down to details like weapons systems or the future of Downpatrick. This view conflicts with the insistence of Robert MacLennan, the SDP's new leader, on a clear stance for the merged party on vital policy questions. The fuzziest the stance, the fewer Social Democrats he can be sure of taking into merger.

The Liberals will resist any attempt to get the new party tied to particular weapons systems. Their hand will be strengthened by the fact that the SDP's present constitutional preamble does not do so, talking only of working within the Western Alliance.

It is intriguing that radicals like Michael Meadowcroft, who is currently seeking the party presidency, and Simon Hughes are going out of their way to emphasize that the Liberal defence vote at Eastbourne last year was not actually a vote for unilateralism but a vote against the development of a third international nuclear force in Europe. The spirit of compromise is there but it could come unstuck if the Liberal leadership, which would happily ditch its genuine unilateralists as part of the price of a merger, appears to its activists to be too-

towing too much to the Owenite Social Democrats.

The assembly could also frighten SDP waverers on the question of the realignment of the left. Des Wilson, the present Liberal president, wants to get the party talking not just about merger but about the kind of party they would be creating in the process. That inevitably involves the relationship it might have with other parties. Steel has ruled out any question of a pact with Labour before the next election. Not all Liberals go so far. The potential merger partners will be cupping their ears for any Lib-Lab co-operation talk at Harrogate while Austin Mitchell, a Labour frontbencher, will be there appealing to Liberal activists not to let their radicalism be swamped in a new centre party.

On a constitution, the battles and suspicions are more internal. Steel is quite open in his admiration for the SDP's centralized party membership system, its logical policy-making machinery and genuinely representative conference. Liberal activists fear that he and his associates will use merger as their opportunity to seize a degree of control over the

now cheerfully decentralized Liberal structure. The likely trade-off is for Steel to code his present veto over policy and allow the conference to have the final say, but only when the conference has been made a fully representative assembly operating on one member, one vote.

There will be opposition. Former Liberal MP Richard Wainwright will argue in the new *Radical Quarterly* about the "perversity" of a constitution which gives the vote of a "mere financial subscriber" equal weight to that of a consistently active supporter. He will contrast the remoteness of the SDP's grouped area parties with the Liberals' autonomous local associations. But this will be the point at which the Liberals swap activist democracy for membership democracy.

What the assembly is likely to underline is that Steel is an entirely different man from the defeated figure who limped away from the 1983 election and that he is heading for the leadership of the Alliance.

He will make no open bid for that in Harrogate. He does not want to look as though he has pushed Owen aside to grab the crown. But though respect for the upright, meticulous MacLennan is growing, and the Liberals realize that negotiating with him will prove no pushover, there is no other serious candidate in sight. While some Liberals might like the excitement of a new leader after ten years, Steel could beat off any challenge from within his own party at present.

Steel may have a tightrope to walk again. But the sickness with which he has set the merger bandwagon rolling as a diversion from the election setback, which might otherwise have demoralized his party, leaves no doubt that his remains the best act in the circus.

John Rae

Risk the stings,
Mr Baker

The national curriculum for schools is the most radical of Kenneth Baker's educational reforms. On his determination to see that it is not watered down to please the teachers will depend his chances of changing the face of British education.

Since public education in Britain began in 1870, the idea of a national curriculum has been anathema. Government dictation of what was taught in schools was all very well for the Prussians and the French but not for the British. Ten years ago, when I was chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, I made a speech suggesting that "we must accept a greater power of direction in the curriculum and other matters from the Secretary of State".

There was an outcry from both left and right. The former called my suggestion fascist; the latter accused me of wanting to stifle education with a centralized bureaucracy. The leader column of one newspaper vigorously rejected any central direction; today that same newspaper enthusiastically supports the national curriculum.

Two reasons for this change in public opinion are obvious. Disenchantment with the quality of state education has reached a point where the public no longer trusts teachers to do a good job without direction from outside. Simultaneously, there has been a growing conviction that even if teachers do an efficient job, the curriculum bears too little relation to the world of work.

A third and less obvious reason is the increasing anxiety about social fragmentation. Britain used to be a homogeneous society in which a common culture was every child's heritage. That can no longer be taken for granted as a national curriculum will help to ensure that the common culture of language, of history, is not lost.

I endorse the assumptions that lie behind these arguments. My fear is not that central direction will be abused — if I feared that I would have no faith in parliamentary democracy — but that the government will miss the opportunity to grasp some awkward nettles. The consultation document, on which comments are invited by the end of the month, is fine as far as it goes. But it lacks boldness. Three nettles remain untouched.

The first is the independent schools, to which the national curriculum will not apply. That is right in principle but the government should be concerned about the impoverished curriculum offered in some independent schools, particularly girls'. When a leading girls' school proudly offers in its prospectus "flower-arranging and hostess skills" you can be sure that some of the weaker sisters are even less inclined to give pupils a proper education.

According to the consultation document, a national curriculum will ensure that "all pupils regardless of sex, ethnic origin and geographical location have access to broadly the same good and

relevant curriculum". But some girls' schools will not even try to meet the requirements, particularly in science and technology.

I would like an assurance from Mr Baker that any independent school failing to meet the requirements of the national curriculum will be threatened with de-registration. I hope that the Headmasters' Conference, which meets shortly, will press him in similar terms.

The second nettle is religion. This was made a compulsory subject in the 1944 Education Act for political reasons that no longer apply. The state has no business taking over from the family in this area. The new Education Act is an ideal opportunity to put the responsibility for a child's religious upbringing back where it belongs, with the parents. Some will protest, but here the government has a chance to show it is serious about giving people responsibility for their own lives.

The third nettle is the education of ethnic minorities. The consultation document stresses the advantage of a common curriculum for all pupils regardless of ethnic origin. In some parts of the country schools are perpetuating differences of culture and language. This seems to me contrary to the spirit of the national curriculum and against the interests of the ethnic minorities.

For example, in one school Sikh children are taught Sikh history instead of British, while in another money saved by abandoning Latin and Greek is used to fund the teaching of Bengali.

The national curriculum should explicitly prohibit the use of schools' time and resources to perpetuate ethnic differences. Any ethnic minority or national group that wishes to keep alive its language and culture is free to do so. But that is their responsibility, not the schools'.

The job of the schools system is to encourage integration by making sure that all pupils can handle the English language and have some understanding of British history and culture — in which connection I note that despite Mr Baker's firm words in favour of history, the national curriculum for the two years to GCSE does not make history a compulsory subject for all children.

Rather than nettles to be grasped, I am sure that Mr Baker would prefer a more restful metaphor: letting sleeping dogs lie, perhaps. The national curriculum raises enough problems without adding to them. But it would be a mistake to imagine that bringing bad independent schools into line, integrating the children of ethnic minorities and facing up to the anomaly of compulsory religion are issues that can safely be forgotten.

Sleeping dogs are apt to wake up if you try to sweep them under the carpet.

The author, Director of the Laura Ashley Foundation, was formerly headmaster of Westminster School.

however... Henry Stanhope

Five in the back
of a cab

I would like to write in praise of London taxi drivers. No one, as I recall, has written in praise of them before, so this is something of a first in our folk history.

London cabbies have the kind of public image which makes Dick Turpin seem like Robin Hood. They are held to be grasping, aggressive, bombastic and downright rude. But as visitors prepare for the introduction of taxi-sharing in two weeks' time, I think they should be reassured that the wars-and-warts picture usually painted is unfair.

No one of course disputes their professional competence. There is no big city in the world whose cabmen are more streetwise than our own. Even the New York drivers who, like Mr Toad's clever men of Oxford, "know all that there is to be known," lack the same intimacy with the broad sweeping avenues and straight enclosed streets of Manhattan that their counterparts over here have with the twisting, narrow, crowded lanes of London.

In Baghdad a magic carpet is more reliable. One can hand one's driver the name of one's hotel in Arabic and a map of how to find it. But he will still, as like as not, drive up and down and across the so-called Tigris for half an hour before conceding defeat by shaking his head in perplexity and rolling his eyes towards Allah.

In Calcutta it is advisable for passengers to be comprehensively insured before entering — though they are usually safer inside than out. In Naples taxi drivers keep on playing with the horn in the manner of a tone-deaf wind ensemble. In Hong Kong so few now speak English that unless one has a passing acquaintance with Cantonese, one's chances of getting where one wants to are hardly much better than even. In Paris the whole experience is unnerving.

London's 18,000 cabmen, by comparison, now spend nearly three years acquiring the so-called "knowledge", learning 480 prescribed routes in Central London before even being allowed to take the test. In terms of experience and skill they are still the very best in the world.

In fact, together with the BBC, the tank and Edward Elgar, they must rank among this country's most enduring contributions to

the 20th century. There are few sights quite as wonderful, on a cold wet winter's night in London, as that of a chugging taxi, like a little old lady in black bombazine and goggles, splashing its way towards one round the corner. Nor is there any experience as frustrating as the discovery that a passenger is inside. That is why I am in favour of cab-sharing.

The practice has been adopted very successfully elsewhere. In Cairo the shared taxis are so cheap that everyone in Egypt travels by them. The result, of course, is that although there must be more taxis to the square mile than anywhere else on earth, it is virtually impossible to find one free. You either have to hijack one at the traffic lights, clambering in over protesting people's legs, or walk through the back door of the Hilton, come out through the front, and wait like Mr Micawber for something to turn up.

I think our cabbies also deserve some praise not just for being professionally efficient but also for being much more pleasant than they used to be. This might be the long-term effect of competition, which began in the 1960s with the mini-cabs.

There are of course exceptions to every rule. But nine out of every ten who have borne me around London in recent years have been courteous, cheerful, obliging and scrupulously honest. One called me back last week because he still owed me 30p change. And none has ever tried to overcharge me.

Indeed, the only fault with London taxi drivers is the difficulty of hearing what they say. As you lean forward in the cramped interior, to catch the cabbie's words of wisdom, you're in danger of cracking your head on the partition if he brakes.

There we have another argument for sharing. It opens the prospect of a six-part seminar — on such familiar topics as the Westminster City Council traffic department, the chances of West Ham in the FA Cup and the length of the holidays enjoyed by our MPs. I can even envisage a Chaucerian entertainment, conducted by mine host as he weaves through Trafalgar Square in the rush hour. "Gilt out of the way... Excuse me ladies and gents, where were we now?"

David Blake draws a profile of the new breed of shareholder

A nation taking stock



So far the expansion of share ownership has relied on two driving forces. One is privatization, which will go on for the lifetime of this government at about its present pace. The Chancellor expects to get £5 billion a year from privatization for as far ahead as he can see. Since only a third of the state industries have so far been sold, with plants such as water and electricity still to come, there will be no shortage of things for people to buy.

Nor is there evidence of slackening demand, as long as the stock market stays strong.

But buying shares in privatized companies does little on its own to give the rest of industry access to small shareholders' funds. One thing which has the tendency for employees to buy shares in the companies they work for, encouraged by company schemes and by generous tax treatment. In the Stock Exchange/Treasury survey earlier this year it was estimated that 1.5 million own shares in their employer companies.

How much further can wider share ownership go? Experience in other countries suggests that we are probably approaching the limit. Even if we reached the highest estimates of American levels of share ownership, we would still have only about 12-13 million.

As for the effects, companies find it expensive to send out millions of reports and dividend cheques. For example, TSB customers who got the maximum allocation of shares in its privatization recently received a dividend cheque for just over £10. Stockbrokers also find it far less profitable to deal in small parcels of shares than in the big blocks bought and sold by the institutions.

That is one reason why the government is keen to encourage the Personal Equity Plans which it set up; these allow people to have a stake in a range of companies without actually owning individual shares. Firms running PEPs will be given the same preferential treatment as individuals in the scramble for BP, which should give PEPs a boost.

While a large number of shareholders can add to a company's administrative costs, they can be good news for its directors (although the Telecom board, exposed to a barrage of criticism at their AGM in Birmingham, might be hard to convince). Small shareholders tend to be less prone to the blandishments of takeover specialists than the big institutions, whose profit performance is monitored by complex sets of tests. But they are likely to turn up and vote to know why their tap has not been fixed.

caught, they could lead to a reduction of about 21 per cent in the total number of fatalities.

Mrs Green and the Department of Transport have at least one thing in common: both realize the contribution which can be made to reducing accident rates through "low-cost, high-potential" improvements to signs and markings, and better-visibility, lighting, road surfaces and layouts.

The Department shows signs of seeking to do more to encourage such actions. Facts believes that a specific allocation of resources for such purposes is needed.

Changes in the design and equipment of vehicles would also help, and road safety campaigners particularly want greater emphasis on education, including pre-school training for the under-fives. Each such measure would, in its way, contribute to the task of reducing road accidents, but the problem will have to be tackled on a broad front if really drastic reductions are to be achieved.

Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

old City habit of "staggering" — buying shares in the new company and selling them immediately at a quick profit.

For example, 1.2 million people were successful in the British Airways issue in February, but three months later the number of shareholders was down to 450,000. The table shows that other companies have experienced big drops. Labour Research, which monitors share registers, says the total number of shareholders in privatized companies is about 5.5 million, compared to 9.5 million successful applicants when they were floated.

Those figures suggest that many people buy and take a quick profit.

But that does not mean they then lose interest in shares. What probably happens is that, having caught the share bug, they go on to the next privatization.

There is considerable evidence for this. Of the 6.5 million shareholders in three big privatized companies (Gas, Telecom and TSB), 4 million had shares in only one company. It seems that many people have a certain amount of money, perhaps less than £1,000, which they are prepared to tie up in shares.

Breaking through that barrier is what the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, presumably means when he talks about "deepening" the pattern of share ownership.

Disappearing shareholders in sell-offs

Company	Sale date	Successful applications	Present number of shareholders
Amersham Int	Feb 1982	65,000	6,077 (Jun 1987)
British Aerospace	Feb 1981	158,000	120,237 (Dec 1986)
May 1986		264,000	
British Airways	Feb 1987	1,200,000	620,058 (May 1987)
Dec 1986		4,500,000	3,111,822 (Apr 1987)
British Telecom	Nov 1984	2,302,000	1,417,505 (Mar 1987)
Nov 1982		35,572	224,502 (Dec 1986)
British Airways	Aug 1985	20,000	
Nov 1981		157,000	181,067 (Mar 1987)
Dec 1982		35,000	
British Telecom	Dec 1985	219,000	
Jul 1984		13,706	13,400 (Dec 1986)
Jaguar	Aug 1984	125,000	35,749 (Mar 1987)

Source: Labour Research

Just toying with
road safety?

that an extra £150 million a year spent directly on new accident reduction measures could make an immediate improvement.

Some would argue that not to do so would reveal not only a failure to deal with some of the causes of human suffering but would mean that the authorities did not even recognize a good investment when they saw one. It is argued that there are tried and tested measures which can reduce various categories of road casualties by 40-50 per cent, and that in many cases minor engineering changes, such as at road junctions, can recover half the cost in the first year of use, in terms of reduced numbers of accidents.

Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary, has recently published a consultative paper on road safety, but the prospects for any dramatic

assault on the problem stemming from that paper do not seem good because the officials who drew it up were instructed not to assume any increase in the level of available resources.

Despite that depressing fact, Channon has also spoken of seeking to reduce the number of road casualties by one third by the end of the century. Mrs Jeanne Breen, co-ordinator of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (Pacts), thinks the consultative document is valuable, but that a greater reduction could be achieved.

For example, she thinks the document has ducked the biggest issue of all, that of random breath tests. She argues that opinion polls show that people are now ready to accept random tests, and that evidence in other countries shows that, by inducing a fear of being

Spectacular accidents such as that which killed four people and injured more than 70 on the M4 on Wednesday briefly focus attention on road safety but tell us nothing of the daily stream of minor accidents in which thousands of people are killed or injured every year.

This week's total will be 100 dead and nearly 6,000 injured. Most of these accidents will scarcely rate a single paragraph in the local paper, but the pain of injury or the grief of bereavement will be the same as if the accident had been of the most spectacular variety.

It is estimated that the total cost of officially reported road accidents is about £3 billion a year, which is many times greater than the amount spent on road safety.

It is argued that research has revealed the solutions to many road safety problems, and that if more were spent accidents would be greatly reduced. The amount spent on road safety is difficult to define, because many forms of spending make an indirect contribution, but one suggestion is



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KEEP THE BAN

Generally, the Football Association secretary, Mr Ted Croker, mused yesterday, "everything seemed to have gone extremely well". He was talking about a "friendly" football match between England and West Germany in Dusseldorf in connection with which 48 people were arrested, 30 of them British.

A policeman was injured. There was one stabbing. Long before the match a group of the English fans smashed glasses and did sundry damage to a Dusseldorf bar.

The proportion of Germans to Britons in the crowd watching the game was 50,000 to 5,000. The police were reported to have seized a range of offensive objects, including a flare gun — though the proportion of English to German weaponry was not made known, and would be interesting to know.

If there were that little trouble at a pop concert, Mr Croker further reflected, "you're doing wonderfully well... so that's nothing and it certainly isn't hooliganism." All in all, Mr Croker was "optimistic" that the ban preventing English clubs from playing in European competitions — imposed after the Heysel stadium disaster in 1985 — would be lifted next year.

Mr Colin Moylan, the Minister for Sport, was less complacent — but only in comparison with Mr Croker. He thought that if the fans got back to England without further incidents "one can only be content with what has happened".

One certainly cannot. The relaxed attitude of both men is further proof of the way which the British — over perhaps the last 20 years — have come to accept some degree of violence as the norm where, earlier in the century, there was none.

Organizers of certain mass events feed off one another in their complacency. The people behind a pop concert which turns vicious will argue that, though deplorable, the violence was no more than what you would find at the Notting Hill Carnival in a peaceful year. Apologists for the present arrangements for the Notting Hill Carnival will argue that the

violence was no worse than what you would find at a league soccer match.

The belief is being encouraged that, where you have many people gathered together, of course there is bound to be a bit of violence. This is false egalitarianism. But it depends on who makes up the crowd — and on what kind of behaviour is expected from them, and tolerated.

The Proms have been going on for over 100 years. It is extremely unlikely that there has been a single stabbing in the crowd. Every summer thousands of Italian, British, American and German fans fill the Verona area for *Aida* and other works. Extra police are not normally needed.

But, it will be objected, the people who go to football are different. They are working class. Some of them come from "deprived" backgrounds. But to say this is simply to patronize them — to assume that they are not responsible for their actions. The peaceful English soccer crowds of the decades immediately before and after the war were "working class" too, and rather more "deprived".

It is irrelevant that Germans were also violent in Dusseldorf, or that the person stabbed was English. (For all that is known, the person who stabbed him might have been English as well.) The dregs of one country attract the dregs of another.

Here was an event which the English were specifically discouraged by their home authorities from attending. Ticket sales in England were prohibited. But Englishmen still found their way to Dusseldorf and trouble. How many more would make such trips if the ban on British clubs were prematurely lifted? The British have not yet purged their guilt for Heysel. As a result of that night, and other horrors, the Englishman visiting "the continent" — who was once a symbol of amiable eccentricity and civility — is now associated with barbarism. Mr Croker should be told by the European football authorities that his optimism is as unjustified as his complacency.

NO TO MOZAMBIQUE

Just over a year ago the Commonwealth Games had been spoiled by absence, the Commonwealth mini-summit in London had been held in a rancorous atmosphere, and speculation was still current about differences of opinion between the Queen and the Prime Minister. The chief cause of all this was the correct insistence by the British Government, and by Mrs Thatcher in particular, that mandatory economic sanctions — which had become the rallying cry of the rest of the Commonwealth — would not bring the speedy end to apartheid in South Africa that everyone desired.

Today preparations for next month's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Vancouver are well in hand, and the totem word sanctions has barely been whispered. The Commonwealth High Commissioners met in London on Wednesday in what was, by all accounts, harmonious mood. Moreover, reports from Ottawa indicate that Canada for one has dropped its insistence on sanctions and others are following suit.

Far from breaking up, the Commonwealth looks in many ways stronger now than it did then. Pakistan, a Muslim nation 100 million strong, is said to have shown interest in re-joining, 15 years after it left. All this looks on the surface to be very satisfactory from the British point of view.

The Government can, it seems, pride itself on a Commonwealth reunited around the pillars of Britain's earlier policy towards southern Africa: the desirability of ending apartheid in the long term, the need to minimize economic risk to the front-line African states and the inadvisability of imposing more sanctions on South Africa while existing ones are being ignored.

Following the High Commissioners' meeting, the Vancouver conference is expected to endorse a programme which balances these priorities. It will recognize that the South African government is unlikely to fall in the immediate future. It will approve additional

economic and military aid for the front-line states — additional, that is, to the already substantial aid Britain supplies to the region — to make it less dependent on South Africa. It will also call for combined international measures to close loopholes in the application of those sanctions already on the statute book.

Amid so much harmony, however, one aspect of the package raises disturbing questions. This is the presence in Vancouver of the non-Commonwealth country of Mozambique and its important position in the plans now being formed. This former Portuguese colony already receives excessive economic and military aid from Britain. While its crucial geographical position as the only front-line state with port facilities and a developed railway network is undoubted, so is the economic damage to the country that the Marxist policies of its leaders have inflicted.

The suspicion must be that a desire to bring peace to the Commonwealth, coupled with long Foreign Office memories of Mozambique's contribution to the Zimbabwe settlement, has led to Mozambique receiving most of the benefits of Commonwealth membership without being required to fulfil any of the obligations. Its Frelimo government is still fighting a guerrilla war against the pro-Western Renamo movement; its leaders are still frequent and welcome guests in Moscow.

The Soviet Union prefers not to pay for its satellites if it can avoid it. Britain ought not to take up the burden. Still less should it fool itself that by paying the Mozambique communists it can tempt the country away from Soviet influence. For Britain, and the EEC, to give economic and humanitarian aid to Mozambique is already a controversial matter. Military aid should be stopped entirely. For Mozambique to be incorporated into Commonwealth policy towards southern Africa raises the whole issue of Commonwealth identity and reinforces those who are suspicious of its entire political stance.

OZONE AND AEROSOLS

The speed with which the West's industrial powers have co-operated to protect the Earth's atmosphere against harmful solar radiation is impressive. The environmental summit next week in Montreal is to be welcomed. Indeed, in comparison to the response to similar issues in the past, the reaction to the charges about compounds in certain aerosol sprays is almost worth a celebration.

The environmental lobby will still say that the response has not been fast enough. The organization, Friends of the Earth, has recently been predicting large numbers of deaths and disfigurements from skin cancers caused by the breakdown in the ozone shield. President Reagan's nose is an all too visible symbol of the potential damage for which aerosols are attracting blame.

It is always easy to mock the language and tactics of extremists in the environmental cause. A "danger" is discovered; soothsaying commentators are keen to predict man-made disaster. The science, meanwhile, is often a good deal less conclusive.

In this case, however, new measurements from a team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, published in the current edition of *Nature*, go a long way to quantifying the relationship between CFCs and atmospheric deterioration, enough anyway to make a very strong case for controlling and diminishing their volume. Although there is considerable uncertainty still about the effect in future years of current levels of chlorine compounds (CFCs) implicated in the destruction of stratospheric ozone, we know that CFCs have a long life. They may well turn out to be more harmful than the data now allow.

The case for an immediate freeze on production, followed by reductions in the

volume of CFCs, is made the stronger by the fact that alternative methods exist to propel hair sprays and cream. McDonald's recent example in switching the production of its insulated foam packaging away from methods using CFCs shows, not for the first time, that consumers will buy environmental good-housekeeping.

This is no American fad. It was the skill and imagination of British scientists in Antarctica in interpreting NASA data that first provided a convincing account of a polar "hole" in ozone concentrations and captured the public imagination. That data would be considerably richer — and possibly even more perturbing — if the Challenger disaster 18 months ago had not interrupted the American space programme so badly.

It has been the Americans who have made the diplomatic running, wanting sharp reductions in the global production of CFCs by the early 1990s. Britain has followed cautiously. But as public concern has grown so has the willingness of the British government to contemplate signing an ozone treaty (technically a protocol to the Vienna Convention on the environment) that would effect a significant increase in the price of CFCs and so provide an economic incentive to move to alternatives.

A general rise in the costs of production will be more easily justified if all trade competitors work from the same base line. On past form, it is likely that the Japanese, and the Soviets, will attempt to avoid the common burden. The correct British response to that would be to sign — while joining the Americans in a diplomatic and public relations offensive against them.

Mathematics in a muddle

From the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde

Sir, On September 2 you published two letters, one from the Master of Balliol seeking to excuse his college's lowly position in this year's Nottingham Table and the other from Professor Emeritus D. F. Lawden lamenting the sterility of mathematics as taught lately. I wonder how many of your readers noted the connection between the two.

Excessive emphasis on mathematical rigour has done great damage and not only to mathematics. The fustian search for precise answers to either evidently precise questions or trivial puzzles has infected every branch of scientific enquiry, reducing some such as economics to ridiculous levels of abstraction. The hair-splitting is a harmless exercise in itself but imagine what an arithmetical scale of quality does to the teaching and the teachers striving for those extra points.

Full marks go to those whose written examination papers contain in mathematical manner unambiguous answers to unambiguous questions, but is that what the education of individuals is about? It was a sad day when the Nottingham tables were invented. It was sadder still to see them taken seriously.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM HILLS,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
University of Strathclyde,
From: Hotel Mohrenwirt,
A-5330 Fuschi am See,
Salzburger Land, Austria.
September 3.

Any answers?

From Professor Percy S. Cohen
Sir, In an otherwise excellent article (August 29) on variations in intelligence-test performance Professor Richard Lynn states that "fewer children today know the answer to the general knowledge item, 'who discovered America?' than did so a quarter of a century ago".

Some insensitive critics would question whether such an item should appear in an IQ test; but the question could certainly exercise the intelligence of children (or adults) to the full.

Do Professor Lynn and other testers know an intelligent and "correct" answer to the question? Is there a "correct" answer to that question? Is there an answer to the question? How would one rate a child who answered, "who indeed?"

Perhaps "there are fewer very highly intelligent people in Japan, perhaps explaining why the Japanese have produced so few Nobel laureates". But they seem to enjoy outwitting the rest of the world. Who did discover Japan?

Yours faithfully,
PERCY S. COHEN,
University of London,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, Aldwych, WC2.

Forces in Manila

From Mr Justin Corfield
Sir, Having followed events in the Philippines from the fall of Marcos, I have noticed a recent change in the reporting of the latest coup d'état attempt.

Usually, as in some of the previous coups (such as the Manila Hotel/Toledano attempted coup), the "loyalists" were those who remained loyal to Ferdinand Marcos, who still regards himself as the *de jure* president of the Philippines, as anybody who writes to him will very soon find out.

Against this, it is interesting to note that in the coup attempt last week, for the first time, soldiers supporting President Aquino were those referred to as "loyalists" on the television and in many of the newspapers.

In future it might be easier to describe troops neither as loyalists and rebels; nor as pro-Aquino, pro-Marcos, pro-Enrile, pro-Grande and Alliance for Democracy, pro-Laurel etc; but instead quite simply as pro-government, or anti-government. There is only one *de facto* Government of the Philippines, whoever you may support.

Yours faithfully,
J.J. CORFIELD,
The Chestnuts,
The Avenue, Claygate,
Esher, Surrey.
August 30.

The bitter end

From Mrs Glyn Daniel
Sir, I wonder whether Dr Grondens-Peace's problems with the sauce bottles (September 7) and his housekeeper's worry about seeing him robbed might both be solved by eschewing the manufactured products and persuading her to give him, with the twirl of a wooden spoon, their home-made equivalents.

Would not his purse and palate benefit, and would he not have the added pleasure of punishing the "small-minded meanness of the manufacturers"? Yours faithfully,
RUTH DANIEL,
The Flying Stag,
70 Bridge Street, Cambridge.
September 7.

Speedier access to British books

From Mr A. Edwin D. Fleming
Sir, The British National Bibliography, which is published weekly in hard copy and on electronic tape, should enable libraries in the United Kingdom and abroad to save large sums of money by providing them with a speedy service for the necessary cataloguing details for new British books.

When I worked in one of the largest public libraries in the United States (Queens Borough, New York) I was fascinated by how this was achieved by copying details from the Library of Congress. This meant that a new book, classified and catalogued, was usually put on the public shelves on publication day.

Why cannot the British Library do for UK libraries and the reading public everywhere what the Library of Congress does so well for libraries and the worldwide book trade?

It is quite usual at present to find entries in the *BNB* appear six months after the book has been published. This means books are either held back from the public as libraries await the *BNB* entry, or catalogues in hundreds of libraries will each assign the book his, or her, estimate of the cataloguing details after studying the text, thus needlessly duplicating time-consuming work.

Now the British Library Bibliographic Services Division are

completing a consultation exercise which includes a proposal for a reduction of 30 per cent in the overall unit costs of record-creation. The plan proposes to provide in future less information about most new books, for example the elimination of the often very significant subtitles in certain classes of publication.

It seems the course being proposed will simply make a bad situation worse. The cost of making the service efficient, like the American system, would be a mere fraction of the resulting total saving in libraries around the country and would have the very important added benefit of making access to British books more efficient everywhere.

When Parliament returns after the summer recess a new Bill will be introduced covering copyright. This could surely be used to require earlier depositing of new books with the British Library. As the issues concerned in this matter affect the efficiency of libraries and the book trade, every interested group and the Office of Arts and Libraries should all be involved in bringing changes which will make the *BNB* a truly efficient service as good as the well-known American equivalent.

Yours faithfully,
A. EDWIN D. FLEMING,
55 Kylesmore Avenue,
Mossley Hill, Liverpool 18.
September 7.

Specialised nurses

From Professor J. R. P. Boore
Sir, In response to the letter from Dr Peter Swann (September 2) I would like to make a number of points about degrees in nursing.

The aim of these courses is to produce nurses with the ability to apply their theoretical knowledge in giving highly skilled care to their patients. Within their four-year degree programme, undergraduate students have to acquire the knowledge and intellectual skills of a graduate (in most cases an honours graduate) and develop the clinical skills of a registered nurse. Because their time in clinical placement is necessarily less than that of students undertaking a traditional training, it is essential that these sections of their degree course are used to the optimum to achieve the educational objectives.

Students undertaking traditional training are employees of the health board and too often their learning needs come second to the requirement to "get the job done". The superannuated status of undergraduate nursing students allows them, and their university nursing lecturers, to take a little longer in giving care to ensure that skills are fully mastered and that relevant academic knowledge is applied in the case of patients.

A student cannot become a skilled and thoughtful professional nurse without exposure to a range of nursing situations and the opportunity to practise

nursing under the supervision and with feedback from skilled and knowledgeable nurses. They will only become the skilled practitioners so badly needed if they learn to care for those with the greatest need for skilled nursing — the senile, the incontinent, the mutilated and the dying among others.

The dropout from degree programmes is less than that from traditional training programmes and most graduate nurses remain in clinical nursing considerably longer than those trained through the traditional route. These differences have been influential in the development of the Project 2000 proposals for nurse training which are currently under discussion. If implemented, all student nurses will have full student status for 80 per cent of their training and, at last, their experience during placements will be planned primarily to assist their development into highly skilled nurses.

The "disgraceful state of affairs" is not that undergraduate students do not get paid as other student nurses but that for the majority of students of nursing so much of their training time is not used effectively. Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER BOORE,
University of Ulster at Coleraine,
Department of Nursing and Health Visiting,
Cromore Road, Coleraine,
Co. Londonderry, N. Ireland.
September 6.

St Paul's project

From Mr Vernon Clements
Sir, The St Paul's, Bristol, development project, on which you report in your issue of August 31, is one of 70 supported by this fund in various parts of the country and is the only one to have attracted controversy.

The objectives listed in its original application to us were quite uncontentious and in line with those of other agencies which we fund.

Before approving the grant, the fund satisfied itself that the project was supported by a variety of community organisations in the area, as well as by the Bristol Council for Voluntary Service; Bristol City Council agreed to share the funding arrangements with us, and the Government task force for St Paul's raised no objection.

The project was (and is) sponsored by Bristol 1000, a reputable community enterprise agency, and there were no reasonable grounds for refusing the application. Indeed, the fund was keen to make a grant, as this proposal was one of very few which promised work

directly with ethnic minority community groups in an area of very high social deprivation.

The decision to appoint Mr Balogun as co-ordinator was Bristol 1000's likewise. Bristol 1000 is responsible for overseeing the project, and in turn accounts to us. We are satisfied that the project — still only five months old — is making good progress in achieving its objectives. It is, however, to local community groups that the project owes its main accountability.

It is not for us to comment on relations between the local community groups and the police in the St Paul's area. But we acknowledge that difficulties have arisen in the past and that proper channels of communication should be available. The development agency has a role to play in this respect and we would urge all concerned to judge the agency by results.

Yours etc,
VERNON CLEMENTS,
Chairman,
Local Development Agencies Development Fund Committee,
26 Bedford Square, WC1.
September 1.

Third World debt

From Mr Andrew Henderson
Sir, It was with great interest that I read Richard Thomson's article on the problem of the Third World's debt (August 26). However, whilst he ably explores the financial aspects of the problem, he failed to go into the reasons why Brazil should halt repayment of the debt and the wider-reaching effects of this.

When I worked in Uruguay in 1984 many middle-class Uruguayans, who account for a large proportion of the population, made their strong feelings of injustice over the debt crisis clear, and how little they believed themselves to be responsible for it.

Their argument ran that the Western banks lent money to a military government that had ousted its 1973 welcome. This money, in large part, was not used to the national benefit but was spent on the armed forces or channelled into private accounts.

In other words, the banks had lent money without investigating the political credentials of the lenders or where the money was going. Therefore the bankers lent to a government that was not legitimate and had anyway misused the funds. Why should he/she (the Uruguayan or the Montevideo omnibus) pay up? This argument can be tailored to the individual situations of most South American countries.

Further blame is placed on the

economic policies of the Western nations, which are viewed as detrimental to those of South America. Thus the problem is not a straightforward one of X owes Y £Z billion but rather one in which the West is thought to be strangling the once-hoped-for economic boom in South America.

It is paramount that governments and banks work to reassure the South American nations that we in the West are not bent on impoverishing them. Brazil has led the way and action must be swift, or else her neighbours may follow suit and refuse to pay the debts of, in many cases, discredited governments.

Yours sincerely,
A. D. HENDERSON,
Harrowood Heights,
46 Harwood Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Out of print

From Mrs Denise Sheldon
Sir, I am astounded at Mr John Paul Story's admission (September 5) of breakfast-time boredom on account of minimal reading matter on cereal packets.

Does his pack not prop up *The Times* then? Or is it only husbands who ensconce themselves behind a large daily paper at table?

Yours faithfully,
D. SHELDON,
Wanders,
55 Dale Avenue,
Hassocks, West Sussex.
September 5.

Trade marks in a London home

From Mr Richard Price
Sir, I was most concerned to see the report by your Political Editor (September 7) about the bid for the Community Trade Mark Office running into trouble.

Many of us in the legal, trade mark and patent professions are working hard to help turn London into the intellectual property capital of Europe in a similar way to its assumption of the leadership of the financial world.

As well as the reform of High Court litigation, a crucial part of this strategy is the location of the office in London.

It will be fatal to our bid if the Government does not see through Mrs Thatcher's stated commitment to give it generous support and will do our overall strategy no good whatsoever.

I look forward to that commitment being reinforced with the necessary Government support well in advance of the Council of Ministers' decision in the autumn. Yours faithfully,

RICHARD PRICE, Secretary,
Patent Solicitors Association,
12 Great James Street, WC1.
September 9.

ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 11 1847

Letters to *The Times* came not only from the learned or distinguished, as this example, from a workhouse, illustrates. A board of inquiry, called to investigate, exonerated the master and deferred a decision about the complaints.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,— At a meeting of the vestry of the parish of St. Pancras, held at the vestry-room, Gordon-square, reported in your journal on the 2d inst., among the numerous acts of oppression exercised towards the poor in the workhouse enumerated by Mr. Eberington, was one of refusing to allow a man, blind and paralysed, the privilege of visiting his aged mother, a being the individual alluded to by that gentleman. I trust you will pardon the liberty I have taken in laying a statement of my case before you. For a series of years I carried on the business of a shoemaker in this parish, and was for some time encouraged with every prospect of success, but owing to repeated losses and severe domestic affliction my hopes were blighted, and after a severe illness I became partially paralysed and totally blind. Reduced to this lamentable condition I had no alternative but to seek an asylum in this workhouse, where for several years I experienced the utmost kindness and humanity from Mr. Lee, the late master, who always manifested a most friendly feeling towards me having long suffered from an affection of the heart and liver, which has been greatly accelerated by confinement, and the impure atmosphere in which I am compelled continually to breathe owing to the densely-crowded state of the house. My mother, who is an inmate of the Aged Pilgrims Society, at Camberwell, in her 80th year, partially blind, and who has lately dislocated one of her ankles, being desirous that I should visit her for a short time, as I always derived much benefit from the change of air, I applied to Mr. Eaton, the present master, for leave of absence for three days, but was positively refused, unless I discharged myself. I was much surprised at such an unreasonable demand, never before being refused such an indulgence. I appealed to the board of guardians, but with no better success; I pleaded my afflicted state, and that during the many years I have been in this house, not the slightest charge had ever been brought against me for any misconduct, but all failed to arouse their sympathy in my behalf; they were inexorable, and insisted that I must discharge myself, this I declined to do, knowing that a rule has lately been laid down that should any person return to the house in less than one month from the date of the discharge they will be deprived of their liberty for three months; this is felt to be a hardship by many. Sir, I have ever felt it to be my duty, and made it my study, to conform strictly to the rules of this establishment; but when the master and directors enforce rules which are opposed to humanity, and which tend to oppress those who are already borne down by the weight of their misfortunes — when they coerce the helpless and deserving poor, and strive by every means in their power to afflict the afflicted, they need not wonder if they murmur and complain. Since my blindness I have been instructed to make staylages, and should be happy if I could, by my own industry, obtain a livelihood; but for the want of a little friendly assistance to aid me in my humble undertaking, I am reluctantly compelled to forego the consolation I should derive in my affliction in the society of a pious and affectionate parent.

I am, Sir, your obedient and humble servant,
G. WHITFIELD,
No. 34, Infirmary ward,
St. Pancras Workhouse.

THE ARTS

Narrow ideals

Virtue, as Mac West observed, has its own reward but no sale at the box-office. In British television terms this has meant that anyone bold enough to tackle the dominating issue of Northern Ireland has caused viewers to zap away immediately to other channels. *The Rockingham* (BBC2), by John McCahery, was the last of a trilogy of plays from BBC Northern Ireland produced by Danny Boyle and commissioned with the proviso that the subject should not be "the military", a limitation doubtless related to the fact that the Troubles spell ratings death.

TELEVISION

The roots of strife were inescapable and seething resentment of the English was the background to the story of a village schoolmaster in the Irish Republic struggling to teach his pupils national pride and Gaelic. Ireland, he taught them, was a proud democracy; England was merely a monarchy. Against him were history, economics and the glamour of the annual pheasant-shoot on the neighbouring estate, where his pupils' parents were employed.

At first the teacher appeared no more than mildly embittered. As the film gathered momentum, with Bosco Hogan in the central role, the man's personality was marvellously delineated — a narrow, isolated, misanthropic man who betrayed his own ideals by pursuing them without humanity. When a large proportion of his class defied his orders not to kowtow to the visiting British ambassador, by skipping school for a day to act as beaters for the guns, the enraged teacher cursed the children and earned himself the hatred of a community which already saw him as eccentric but endurable.

The man's struggle with his temperament was absorbingly continued through an encounter with a travelling showman who came to entertain the children. The direction throughout was delicate and emotionally accurate but the camera evaded, perhaps consciously, the chaos of the Irish landscape. The script wavered occasionally towards triteness but the film was entrancing to the end.

Celia Brayfield

A comedy of human failings

OPERA

Die Fledermaus
Grand, Swansea

Fledermaus to the late Twenties, turning it into the kind of evening Ferec Molnar might have written and Tom Stoppard translated.

Eisenstein has been quite deliberately cast with a tenor rather than the now conventional baritone. Laurence Dale, straight black hair flopping fashionably forward, plays him as a philanderer bored with a wife he clearly now considers on the elderly side. "She's as old as the hills," he remarks at Orlofsky's party when at last he admits to being married. And the sword goes straight through the disguised Rosalinde's heart. Dale, once reckoned a light tenor, now has far more flesh on the voice and has no trouble in encompassing this role, which lies uneasily between two vocal ranges. It is an astute, agile creation, taking in all Eisenstein's greed and egotism.

Suzanne Murphy's Rosalinde has not yet acquired this assurance, especially in Act I where she is required to seduce Alfred, who needs little urging, on a bearskin (polar variety). But give her the Act II caresses and the prima donna emerges in all her finest soprano feathers. And Miss Murphy makes a very good fist of the closing scene, when she by no means joins in the general chorus that King

Champagne will solve all the killer look she gives Eisenstein suggests that she would rather be Yvonne Cluett.

Peter Bröder's would-be lover, roly-poly and mop-haired, is exuberantly projected, but his snatches of Verdi suggest he is better as Alfred than Alfredo. The Tauber extracts in prison, a neat piece of darning, sound better. Some of the other performances are still finding their way. Andrea Bolton's Adele lacks wit, Henry Newman's Falke is too pallid, Deborah Stuart-Roberts's Orlofsky (a true Diaghilev princeling) needs to grow and probably will.

Two old staggers steal the final act and prevent it, with Helmut Prolax's help, from being the let-down it all too often is. Sebastian Shaw's Frosch, ever complaining about opera and, especially, operetta, makes it quite clear that he is the social superior of Governor Frank (Donald Adams in ripost form).

Convention is flouted yet again in a *Fledermaus*, bristly but not unsympathetically conducted by György Fischer and admirably sung by the WNO chorus, which takes a far sharper look at Strauss in a two-and-a-half-hour span than many a more opulent production. Catch it.

John Higgins

● The next performances at Swansea are on September 17 and October 9. *Fledermaus* then goes on tour to Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol, Mold and Oxford.



The Eisensteins at home: Laurence Dale, astute and agile, and Suzanne Murphy in Act I

Production worthy of fine players

THEATRE

Thursday's Ladies
Apollo

There is always a home for what used to be patronized as the women's play, reflective, well-spoken, moving at a leisurely pace, and set in a situation of some refinement. I have no complaints if it opens up the territory to such major performers as the three brought together for the English production of *Lolita* Bellon's play.

Dorothy Tutin, Eileen Atkins and Sian Phillips, who have never previously acted together professionally, play three schoolgirls who for half a century have neighbored on one another's lives and now meet weekly in the apartment of Sonia (Tutin), the poorest. Peter Rice has designed a setting that is shabby and untidy, home to a lifetime's souvenirs, but which avoids exaggerating the neglect.

Avoiding exaggeration is the style of this sort of work — rather English, you might say — though Mlle Bellon is a French actress and her play is set in Paris. The play was her first, and the authorial hand shows through in the scene-setting. "Of course, the famous Thursday's," Sonia's sponging son (Albert Weiling) conveniently remembers for us shortly after the curtain rises. We learn the architectural

interests of Marie (Atkins), now a widow but once the wife of the passionately loved brother of Hélène (Phillips).

The story is tougher than first appearances suggest. Politely phrased wrangles about a family tomb with only one place remaining, the spoils son and the dead husband (Jeremy Brudenell) are seemingly remote pieces that join together with such a marvellous and unexpected rightness that a gasp of delighted laughter breaks out in the house. But many other pieces are exceedingly slender, and the 20th century goes by with quick salutes to such milestones as the Charleston, the fall of Stalingrad and the rise of North Sea oil.

The characters step into their shared memories, changing in the setting down of a tucup from middle-aged matrons to their young selves tormented by jealousy, alarmed or intrigued by the man in the tobaccoist's doorway. For the chance it offers to inspire trim, detailed portrayals of many ages of feminine behaviour, the play certainly earns its keep. The dreamy, fickle Sonia, the tumbling impudence of Hélène, and the loving sense of Atkins's dry and emphatic Marie are triumphant elements in a production by Frank Hauser, beautifully paced, that gathers and parts the actresses across the stage like corks on the stream of history.

Jeremy Kingston

The Emperor
Royal Court

The entire run of this extraordinary dramatic work was sold out within two days of its opening at the Theatre Upstairs earlier this year (when it was warmly praised by Irving Wardle). Now transferred to the main house, the production, by Jonathan Miller in association with Michael Hastings, has sacrificed the face-to-face intensity generated in restricted space, yet the dreamlike tone of the piece remains as powerful and as disconcerting as before.

The scarcely credible lives of the courtiers of Hailé Selassie were conveyed by Ryszard Kapuscinski, the Polish poet and journalist, as a sequence of mellifluous interviews with survivors. In this adaptation the text is distributed between five actors from Jordan, West Africa and the Caribbean, dressed in sober suits, whose interlocking accounts form a seamless narration.

They step gravely and silently through the grey doors of a set, by Richard Hudson, that is entirely composed of doors, half-doors, quarter-doors and tiny peepholes: a brilliant image of a world where the deadliest informers spy upon one another. Standing before us like ghosts condemned to repeat the past, they recall and reenact, with marvellous precision of gesture, the feudal customs of their mad realm of inertia and whim: the servant who wipes with a satin cloth the shoes of visitors whom His Highness's dog has urinated on the importance of sliding a floor-cushion in front of the throne so that the imperial seat shall not be left dangling in the air.

All the actors have turns as emperor, but the role is occupied most often by the crippled Nabil Shaban, an unforgettable little figure with superbly humorous mouth and eyes and double-jointed arms that angle forward to become a flamingo's neck or an ant-eater.

J.K.

● The autumn season at the Young Vic opens next Thursday with Trevor Griffiths's *Comedians*. The production, directed by David Thacker, will be the first major London revival of the play since its original performances in 1975.

Irving Wardle

A Question of
Geography
Other Place,
Stratford

The deadpan title of John Berger's and Nellie Blais's play refers to the wholesale uprooting of populations, which ranks as this century's most original contribution to the history of human suffering. The setting happens to be a Siberian Gulag in the last days of Stalin, but it could equally have been Pol Pot's Kampuchea; and in no sense are the authors offering a redundant footnote to Solzhenitsyn.

What they set out to demonstrate is the resurgence of ordinary life under the most life-defying conditions. The characters are mostly non-criminal "enemies of the people" who have served their sentences and are now living in forced residence in the island-like fastness of Kolyma. They are liable at any time for extra work, house-searches and rears. They are as helpless as insects inside a killing-bottle. But they assemble their few possessions and memories, form attachments, and get on with their lives.

Daria, who lost a husband and son, works in an infants' school, and shares her room with a mischievous old porter and his lover, Eric (an over-worked doctor, like the hero of Berger's *A Fortunate Man*). They are a devoted couple; it is ecstasy for Daria when he brings radishes home, or has time for a bath before being called out on another round. Friends drop in for a drink



Deeply felt performances: Clive Russell (left), Harriet Walter and Liam Roache as her son

and a chat about the latest film, or to recite Blok poems and dance to their own singing.

Then, after 15 years, Daria's son Sacha tracks her down and arrives from Leningrad for his school holidays. A total innocent in the ways of the Gulag, he receives a forcible education in the minimal choices available to these "invisible" people, and finally decides to stay on after seeing his mother hustled away in a wave of new arrests.

The play's moral centre, as always with Berger, is as firm as a rock. He has, however, set himself the task of writing a drama about people whose main defining feature is their incapacity for action. Much

modern drama has been born out of that problem; but it has never been solved by the naturalistic means adopted in this play, which is always stopping for memory speeches, or stories, and becoming bogged down in the unselective clutter of domestic routine. You also notice that the Zeks are superior people. Did nobody apart from violinists, doctors and professors fall foul of Article 58 in the Soviet Penal Code?

Daria (a beautiful performance by Harriet Walter), arrested for harbouring forbidden icons, achieves a noble exit by delivering a lecture on art history to a pair of uniformed louts. But this does lodge the impression that such dignity is available only to

victims with a higher education.

The play has been disappointingly melodramatized in John Caird's production, which hijacks Bach's famous Chaconne to underscore every scene, and surrounds the living-room with a wire perimeter fence patrolled by menacing soldiers. This thoroughly sabotages the authors' consistent purpose of using quiet, understated normality to imply emotional anguish and the unseen brutalities outside. Something of the intended effect survives in the delicate and deeply felt performances of Mark Dignam, Clive Russell and Susan Colver.

Irving Wardle

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Light in focus

CONCERTS

BBCSO/Wand
Albert Hall/Radio 3

In choosing to perform Stravinsky's 1945 suite from *The Firebird* in his programme with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, their chief guest conductor Günter Wand gave his listeners markedly less than the full ballet but appreciably more than the usual concert suite. It was enough, anyway, for Balanchine to choreograph his own version of the ballet on this alone, though Professor Wand took Stravinsky's option to cut the three short passages labelled "Pantomime".

He thereby concentrated the focus on the best of the dance element, with luminous textures taking precedence over rhythm in the "Pas de deux" movement, and a lightly accented playfulness for the "Dance of the Princesses". Most unusual was the remote and even eerie character he gave to the "Khorovod", or round dance, making a correspondingly vivid contrast with the sudden eruption of the "Infernal Dance", here sounding less than horrifying but dynamically controlled.

The orchestral playing was both keen and sensitive, with well-paced brass adding a coruscant splendour to the baller's finale.

For Schubert's Ninth Symphony after the interval the trumpets were separated from their trombone colleagues and resealed close to the horns on the opposite wing, to the advantage not of the big climaxes, but to quieter passages like the soft answering phrases of the slow movement, itself given momentum at an ideal tempo which few conductors achieve.

Unlike those who often dawdle along the way to draw our attention to this or that feature, Professor Wand knows that to travel hopefully in such a symphony needs a destination in view, and his purpose is to arrive at that in the best possible order. With all the experience of his 75 years he is perhaps unmatched, and certainly unsurpassed, in the Viennese romantic repertoire, mainly because he achieves, mainly because he achieves, the balance between form and feeling that can leave the listener, as it did here, grandly aware as well as satisfied.

Noël Goodwin

Philharmonic
Soloists of
Japan/Ozawa
Barbican

The Philharmonic Soloists of Japan, or if you prefer it the Saito Kinen Orchestra, is apparently also known by some as the "Miracle Orchestra". Perhaps it ought also to bear the label "Occasional Orchestra", for it meets only when its members, prominent solo, chamber, and orchestral players normally scattered over the globe, can be brought together for a few precious days. The scale of the logistical (and, no doubt, financial) problems may be measured by the fact that its next projected season is not until the early 1990s. There has to be a special *raison d'être* for such a group, and it is that the orchestra exists as a memorial to the Japanese educationalist Hideo Sato, founder of the Toho Gakko School of Music, where every player studied at one time or another.

Yet could such an assembly, whose members share only the experience of having been taught in the same way, forge itself into a real orchestra, submerging individuality to the common cause? Mostly the answer was positive.

There were too many strings making too corpulent a sound, of course, for Mozart's D major Divertimento, K136, and in Brahms's First Symphony the principal oboe and principal horn both played with unpleasantly wide vibratos. But the latter work, given under Seiji Ozawa's direction, was as intense as one has ever encountered it, dramatic though carefully balanced and highly polished. It really does seem like a miracle when the strings combine to make a sound of such indescribable richness and depth.

Earlier Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche*, which Kazuyoshi Akiyama conducted, proved not of a more over-the-top kind. No brilliance, though, was more overt than that shown in the encore, Paganini's "Perpetuum mobile", scored for strings only, which Ozawa simply set in motion before stepping off the platform. Marvellous though he had been, the deference was only proper.

Stephen Pettitt

The h

Marriages

The heeling touch

The Marchesa di San Giuliano Ferragamo is formally known as Fiamma — an appropriate name for a daughter trained to take up the torch after her father Salvatore's death and keep alive his creative flame as a world-famous shoemaker.

With her mother Wanda (President of the board), her brother Ferruccio (managing director), her sister Giovanna (in charge of the women's ready-to-wear fashion collection), her brother Leonardo (menswear supremo), sister Fulvia (accessories) and brother Massimo (in charge of the New York operation), Fiamma controls a worldwide empire worth, she says, one hundred million dollars.

The family meets once a fortnight around the boardroom table in the frescoed, grandeur of the Florentine Palazzo Ferroni-Spini which Salvatore worked his socks off to buy as a factory in 1937.

Some would regard it as a business, but the Ferragamos see it as a sacred trust — and their attitude is sanctioned by no less a body than the Victoria & Albert Museum, which next month hosts the first exhibition of Ferragamo shoes to be seen outside the maestro's native Italy.

His designs are collected around the world as eagerly as the Ferragamo sisters look for antiques to take back to their luxurious palazzo, and they never go out of style. A fashionable woman today would look completely in step with a pair of his raffish raffia and cork creations from the war years, when leather was scarce and necessity provided a spur for invention.

Ferragamo believed that his children should be taught to love their work as much as he did. Fiamma was 16 when her father pulled her, the eldest daughter, out of school to learn the trade at his side.

"I always thought I would go back and continue my education, but..." Now aged 44, she shrugs expressively, and crosses an enviable pair of legs in shimmering tights tapering into a pair of the latest Ferragamo court shoes with delicate 3in heels.

It was almost as if, she muses, her father had urged intimations of mortality. He was moved to write his autobiography, *Shoemaker of Dreams*, which passes on many of the secrets of his art, shortly before his death in 1960.

"There was a feeling of destiny in following in his footsteps," admits the daughter who now masterminds the shoe design of the Ferragamo empire. "Although I wouldn't pretend that I inherited his gift."

After setting up his own shoemaking business at the age of 11, in his native village in Italy, Ferragamo went out to Hollywood to join his brothers in 1914, and quickly won the respect and custom of the stars of the new cinema industry: Lillian Gish, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, Ru-



Salvatore Ferragamo

boasted that his shoes could cure ill-temper as well as provide comfort for the sole. Victoria McKee discovers how his craft became art

dolph Valentino — all became friends as well as clients.

He designed the shoes for Cecil B. De Mille's biblical epics with no particular knowledge of history — and his sandals became everybody's idea of what the ancient Romans wore. He created the wedge heel out of desperation, when there was no longer the right quality metal available to support the conventional kind, and later discovered that such shoes had indeed existed centuries before.

Visitors to the V & A exhibition, which opens on October 31, will walk through four decades of history: a celebration not simply of shoes, but of art and imagination. The "invisible" shoe made with see-through nylon wire, the Egyptian pyramid shoes inspired by the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, the low heels designed by Greta Garbo, the richly embroidered and bejewelled slippers so admired by Eva Peron — all make fascinating viewing. But the true secret of the Ferragamo shoe, the one of which he was most proud, is hidden. It is the fit.

When he discovered that supporting the arch left the toes free to move as nature intended, he was able to make the most exquisite confections for the feet which were more comfortable than clumsy orthopaedic shoes — and more therapeutic too, he insisted. His shoes, he boasted, could not only make corns and callouses and fallen arches plagues of the past, but they could cure ill-temper and other problems seemingly unconnected to the feet.

Ferragamo also wrote: "You must not take any notice of anything the shop assistant tells you. If shoes do not fit when you leave the shop they will never fit, never, never."

Ferragamo shoes are still to be found on the feet of royalty and celebrities the world over, and regular customers such as Barbara Cartland and Lady Forté could probably stage their own exhibitions of Ferragamo shoes by now.

Today the shoes are no longer

made by hand for individual customers, but the unique lasts have been designed on Salvatore's principles and fittings down to a quadruple A in width are available. Prices start at £52 for comfortable low wedges in repulse-effect suede.

"We only use the finest leathers," Fiamma explains. "Unborn calf, I'm afraid — because it's extremely soft and very strong, and we pull our shoes tremendously so they hold their shape."

A new commemorative collection, a limited edition inspired by the best Ferragamo designs of the maestro himself, is being launched in time for the exhibition. There is a spotted evening shoe in gold and silver, modelled on a design from the 1920s, a suede and silver creation with no sides and some sensible brown court shoes with high and low heels. None will cost more than about £130 — which isn't all that much for a slice of history.

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Caught in a cross-cultural exchange

The look on the mother's face was ugly — skin and muscle crumpled up with hatred. "All she cares about is her damn cup of tea," she screamed at the television cameras, referring to the Mayores of Kirkcaldy. The Dewsbury parents had just broken up the Mayores's afternoon tea party in yet another effort to get their children into Overthorpe primary school. In the scum of camera lights and elbows, the children mood bewildered.

At first glance I was horrified to see parents dragging their children about, little hostages to the cause. But on reflection, I felt some sympathy for the whole awful mess. What would any of us do? The Dewsbury parents don't want their children in a school that is 85 per cent Asian. They would prefer them to go to a school that is nearly all white. Is this racism?

It seems to me that "it probably isn't" — at least not in the sense of the noxious idea that one group of people are inherently inferior or superior to another. The Dewsbury brouhaha may well be, as the parents claim, simply a cultural question. For most of us, whatever our race, cultural self-identity is an important part of our human identity: dress, gestures and behaviour as well as 1,001 tiny habits are part of our essential being. Historically speaking, whenever two different cultural, linguistic, religious or national groups are forced together, the situation becomes perilous — so long as each group maintains its own strong identity.

Also, assimilation seems to be the only permanent solution.

But since ethnic and racial groups often prefer living in the same neighbourhoods, they do end up forming majorities in the same schools. This would be no threat to British customs if the spirit of our times was firmly in favour of assimilation. After all, the British way of life is made up of attitudes, habits and values. In that sense, British traditions are indifferent to the colour of a person's skin. Would it really matter — culturally speaking — if a few hundred years down the road, the people calling themselves British were largely of Asian or East Indian stock, so long as they had acquired all the habits of the original people?



BARBARA AMIEL

Unfortunately, the chances of these habits and institutions being carried on are lessened by today's multicultural ethnic. The Kirkcaldy Metropolitan Council which oversees Dewsbury school, for example, has a booklet of multicultural curriculum guidelines. They include the thesis that "just as, for example, overt racism is unacceptable in the playground, covert or unintentional racism, as illustrated by a Eurocentric syllabus needs to be countered". If a school syllabus centred on European culture is "unintentional racism" one can well understand the fears of the Dewsbury parents.

How do we overcome the tensions that xenophobia and pride create?

This cuts both ways. At the all-black John Loughborough School in Tottenham (a Seventh Day Adventist school), the waiting list for places is lengthy. "Parents send their children here because of our discipline and standards," says the headmaster Mr Keith Davidson. "And because the ethnic background of our teachers is sympathetic. Parents don't worry about the school being all black. They see it as an advantage. Here the ethos is supportive to pupils and it gives them a greater degree of confidence for when they leave."

I mused on all this when I went earlier this week to the Jacob Epstein exhibition in the Whitechapel Gallery. A young father with a yarmulka on his head was taking his

daughter around. "Who is he, Daddy?" asked the girl. "One of the world's greatest sculptors," said the father. "Jewish." The girl smiled with pleasure.

As a Jew, I understood the frisson that ethnic pride creates. Still, what intrigued me most about the exhibition was an essay in its catalogue chronicling earlier responses to Epstein's work, which in the 1930s was described by *The Morning Post* as "hideous, unnatural, un-English, and essentially unhealthy". *The Post* even went so far as to say that "it is significant that nearly all the support for violence rather than beauty should come from Socialists, foreigners and Jews." This was an echo of the question that had been posed earlier by the *Daily Graphic*: "Is Mr Epstein of British blood and is he by faith a Christian? The name Epstein is no guide but it suggests a possibility that this sculptor is addressing an audience of British Christians without the necessary psychic equipment."

I have always felt that British anti-Semitism has more to do with xenophobia than any vicious ideology. The British are an island people with a deep suspicion of mainlanders who do not share their way of life. All foreigners are regarded dubiously by the British and Jews doubly so. There was both a class element to this as well as a deep spiritual distaste that one could find in the approach of a Hilaire Belloc or a Maurice Baring.

This xenophobia plays its part in attitudes to race today here in Britain, but it is full of such contradictions. The British Office of Population and Census cannot even tell you what the racial breakdown in this country is — except for a "guesstimate" based on fuzzy figures from local councils. How public policy on such vital issues as immigration or compensatory education can be formulated without these figures is a mystery to me.

Meanwhile how do we overcome the tensions that xenophobia and cultural pride create? I have no easy solution and perhaps there isn't one, so long as this society remains free. But as far as our children go, my own feeling is that liberty must prevail and parents should be able to choose whatever kind of school they want — and take the consequences without whinging.

Marriages made in heaven?

When a couple divorce there is no "guilty" or "innocent" partner, simply two people both suffering an awful lot of pain. This highly contentious opinion, which will endear her to the husband or wife who does the dumping but not to the one who has been dumped, is a view arrived at by Jean Claire Judge, the new chief executive of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, after 17 years of counselling.

Now aged 49, married to the same man for 26 years and the mother of three children, she defends her opinion with a biblical quote: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone," and adds: "I want to make it clear that I don't approve of men or women ditching their families and having affairs, because it causes incredible distress; but things are never as clear-cut as they seem."

Mrs Judge was born in Chorley, Lancashire, but she has lived in Sydenham, south east London, for 42 years. Her husband Frank owns a chain of pharmacies in the area. She is the first woman to be appointed to lead the Catholic church's attempt to staunch the flood of broken marriages in this country, since the CMAC was founded 40 years ago.

Although she does not take

How the first woman to lead the Catholic marriage council will handle divorce



Facing the realities of life and love: Mrs Jean Judge

up her post until next month, Mrs Judge has already been embroiled in one controversy. She claims to have been misrepresented by a report that she was in favour of couples living together before marriage.

"I sympathize with them, because they live in a world where they think it is necessary and are making a conscientious effort to avoid the pain of divorce. But I don't think it helps at all," she says. "Marriage is about commitment rather than about trying someone out to see if they will

about myself and my own marriage."

Sixty per cent of Catholic marriage guidance interviews involving 500 counsellors in 82 centres are with non-Catholics, and Mrs Judge hopes to instigate research into who comes, at what stage, and with what results. "My job is to arouse awareness, particularly in the Catholic community," she says. "I don't want to lose the value of marriage as a permanent relationship, but I would like to find a way for the church to be more charitable to people who don't manage to make it. Because I sympathize with divorced people and couples who choose to live together, it doesn't mean I think 'anything goes'."

Last year the CMAC conducted more than 20,000 interviews with people having marital difficulties and were supported by a grant of £112,700 from the Home Office and £34,000 from the DHSS. "Our aim is to support marriage, to take the pain out of it, and to encourage people to come for help earlier. Everyone is looking for a lasting one-to-one relationship and wants it to last for life. That is the way it was designed to be."

Heather Kirby

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THE TIMES SATURDAY

—Portfolio Gold—

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Tales of one city

London played as much a part in the work of Charles Dickens as any of his characters, and he knew the city, its streets and its slums, better than any other novelist. In *The Times* tomorrow, Peter Ackroyd explores the London of Charles Dickens.

The sky's the limit

Your guide to bargain air fares

Home thoughts of abroad

A cook's tour for gourmets

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY

★ Seats available
★ Returns only

THEATRE

LONDON

★ **BLUES IN THE NIGHT:** Return of hit show. Carol Woods, Dobby Bishop and Maria Friedman sing their hearts out in a sleazy Chicago hotel.

★ **THE CANTERBURY TALES:** Last two performances of Michael Bogdanov's charmingly bawdy version of Geoffrey Chaucer's classic of Middle English.

★ **CORPSE:** Colin Baker and Jack Wadding in a twisty thriller of murder, money and identity. Wadding, WC2 (01-438 5887), Tue-Sat 8.10pm, Fri and Sat 8.10pm, £5.50-£12.50.

★ **CURTAINS:** Sheila Ballantyne, Alfred Lynch and Owen Nelson lead a strong cast in a play of family disunity by Stephen Mangan. Hampstead Theatre Club, Swiss Cottage, NW3 (01-722 9301), Tue-Sat 8.10pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £5-£7.

★ **INFIDELITIES:** William Gaskill's contemporary production of Marlowe's classic comedy, with Eleanor Brown and John Lynch. Lyric Theatre, King Street, W1 (01-438 5887), Mon-Sat 8.10pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £5-£7.

★ **PORTRAITS:** New William Douglas-Home play with Keith Mitchell as Augustus John and Simon Ward playing three of his sitters (Monty, Matthew Smith and Cecil Beaton). Swan Theatre, The Strand, WC2 (01-638 8888), Tue-Sat 8.10pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £5-£7.

★ **THIS SAVAGE PARADE:** A group of Israeli stage artists tell of a Nazi criminal, who was later executed. Alfred Marks and Garfield Morgan in an early Anthony Gifford play. King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper Street, W1 (01-226 1919), Tue-Sat 8.10pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £5-£7.

★ **THE STORM:** Janet McTear plays Ostrovsky's tragic heroine stying under the religious bigotry of provincial Russia. National Theatre, Cottesloe, EC2 (01-628 8795), Tue-Sat 8.10pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £5-£7.

★ **TWO TANG HUNG:** Robert Glenister, Barbara Jefford and Leslie Sands in Nick Darke's new play about a Cornish man. National Theatre (Cottesloe), South Bank SE1 (01-928 2252), Tue-Sat 8.10pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £5-£7.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** The Bushes Of Madder. Mayfair Theatre (01-628 8036), Tue-Sat 8.10pm, mat Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £5-£7.

★ **THE FRENCH ACTRESS:** Sylvie (above), in *Les Femmes de Paris*, the first feature film of Robert Bresson. Made in 1943, but never released in Britain. It is showing in a new print at the Everyman, Hampstead (see listing) to mark Bresson's 80th birthday. Written by Jean Grélaud, and set in a community of nuns who recruit slaves from the prisons, explores the relationship between a sister and a nun who is using the convent as a refuge from the police.

OUT OF TOWN

★ **CHICHESTER:** ★ *Millicent*: Clever woman outwits greedy councilors. Festival Theatre, Chichester (0243 781312), 7.30pm, £5.75-£11.50.

★ **COVENTRY:** ★ *Gyps and Dolls*: Tunes from the new season. Belgrade Theatre, Belgrade Square (0203 553055), Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, £5.50-£8.25.

★ **HULL:** ★ *Teachings*: New John Gower "and of term" play. Funny with sad bits. Start of nation-wide tour. Spring Street Theatre, Spring Street (0447 424000), Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £5.25-£7.75.

★ **LEICESTER:** ★ *You Strike the Women*: You Strike the Rock. Market Theatre of Johannesburg touring with play about scraping a living in South Africa. Haymarket Theatre, Belgrade Gate (0533 539797), Mon-Thurs 7.45pm, Fri and Sat 8.15pm, £5.50.

FILMS

★ **Also on national release**

★ **ADVANCE BOOKING POSSIBLE**

★ **LES ANGES DU PECHÉ (PG):** See

★ **EVERYMAN HAMPSTEAD (U):** 1435

★ **THE BIG EASY (U):** Uncertain

★ **THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS (PG):**

★ **BLIND DATE (15):** Blake

★ **FULL METAL JACKET (18):** Stanley

★ **THE FRENCH ACTRESS:** Sylvie

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The shabby treatment of Elizabeth Thompson (1846-1933), later Lady Butler, by the Royal Academy is typical of the dismissive attitude of male-dominated Victorian institutions to women artists. Contrary to the stereotyped view that women only painted flowers, Thompson was not only specialized in battle paintings, but was also among a handful of artists who were household names. When her picture, *The Roll Call*, was exhibited in 1874, a barrier was erected in front of it to keep back the crowd. And yet, when her name was submitted to the Academy for consideration as an associate member, she was rejected because the Academy's charter only allowed for the election of "men of fair moral character".

London Symphony Chorus and soloists. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212). Sat 10.30am, £15.50-£25.50, 8.30pm, £3.

★ **MEMORIAL RECITAL:** Jeremy Menuhin plays Bach's Partita No. 1, Mozart's Piano Sonata K 576, Schubert's Piano Sonata D 958, Debussy's *Estampes*, and a surprising choice, Czerny's Variations on *La Rêverie*. Wigmore Hall, 29 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-936 2141), 7.30pm, £15.50-£25.50.

★ **WITHOUT STRINGS:** No Strings Attached, a clarinet quartet, and James Woodrow (guitar) between them perform Elliott Carter's *Quartet for Strings* and *Quartet for Strings*. Royal Over-Seas League, Art Gallery, Park Place, St James's, London W1 (01-408 0274), sat 7.30pm, £15.50-£25.50.

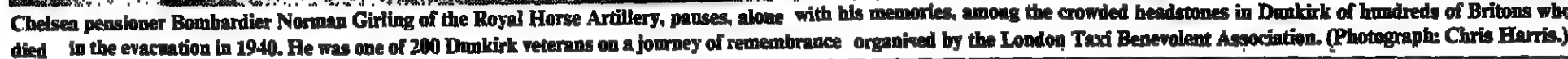
★ **PRIMAVERA:** British premiere of Stephen Sondheim's *Primavera*, a musical about the seasons. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-638 8888), Sat 8.10pm, £15.50-£25.50.

★ **THE FRENCH ACTRESS:** Sylvie (above), in *Les Femmes de Paris*, the first feature film of Robert Bresson. Made in 1943, but never released in Britain. It is showing in a new print at the Everyman, Hampstead (see listing) to mark Bresson's 80th birthday. Written by Jean Grélaud, and set in a community of nuns who recruit slaves from the prisons, explores the relationship between a sister and a nun who is using the convent as a refuge from the police.

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Short shrift for 1,001 debates



1008
1016
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Warm front Cold front

TEMPUS

Rowntree has sweeter taste

Hepworth Ceramic, the growth-hungry building materials group, announced a record 48 per cent increase in half-time profits. Earnings were £26.059 million compared with £17.661 million previously. This was more than £2 million ahead of the City's best expectations and the share price climbed 4p to 268p. The dividend is raised from 3.1p to 3.6p. Mr Roland Smith, chairman, expects continued good profits.

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

CBI to rebuke retailers on unrealistic sales estimates

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

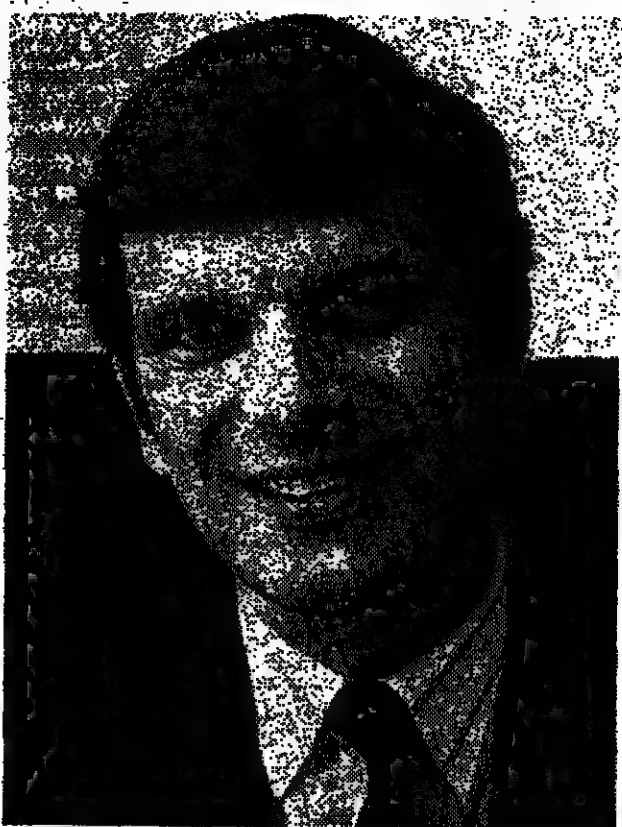
Britain's over-optimistic shopkeepers are to be told by the Confederation of British Industry to stop giving a false picture of the extent of the consumer boom.

Since the start of the year, retailers have consistently been over-estimating their sales prospects. CBI economists believe that while the weather has hit shop sales and cannot be fully predicted in advance, sales levels still do not justify the shops' enthusiasm.

The problem has come to a head with the publication of the CBI's latest distributive trade survey which appears to show that sales growth in the high street fell in August. A balance of 60 per cent of retailers had said they expected a rise in August but in the event the balance was just 39 per cent, the lowest level since March.

The CBI is forecasting that consumer spending, which rose by 5 per cent last year, will rise by 3.6 per cent this year and 3.4 per cent in 1988. Mr Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the CBI distributive trade survey panel, who is to consult members about the survey, said: "Sales are still strong, but expectations are running ahead of reality."

A balance of 52 per cent of retailers say they expect a recovery this month and a sales growth but Mr Whitaker said yesterday: "These expectations must be seen against a background of rather optimistic hopes throughout the year which have mostly been unfulfilled."



Nigel Whitaker: shops' expectations "ahead of reality"

Mr Whitaker said that the rate of growth in sales was likely to remain steady for the rest of the year. But the "spectacular" sales growth of the last 18 months was unlikely to be repeated.

Nearly two-thirds of the 250 retailers questioned thought their September sales would be higher than a year ago and only 10 per cent said they would be lower. Among those doing well were shops selling durable household goods, videos, hi-fi equipment, cookers and freezers, clothing stores and shoe shops.

The 189 wholesalers in the survey reported better-than-expected August sales and slightly faster increases above last year's volumes are anticipated in September.

On investment intentions the CBI reported "the most positive response for four years." Retailers were the most optimistic, with 48 per cent expecting to invest more in the coming year. Motor traders were the most positive since August 1983.

Another report published by Management Horizons, which claims to be the world's leading retail consultant, concludes that J Sainsbury, Tesco and one other large company will control more than 80 per cent of the British food retail market by 1995.

The report says that for a store to remain profitable in 1995 it must generate sales of £330 per square foot, "a difficult target to reach if the UK market follows the US example of declining productivity."

J Sainsbury, which the report says is earning £770 per square foot, and Tesco, at £450, seem to be the best positioned of the food multiples for survival.

Modest growth expected by IMF

(AP-Dow Jones) — The International Monetary Fund believes that economic activity in the non-communist industrialized world should continue growing at a modest pace through the end of 1988 — but says large external imbalances pose the greatest threat to the recovery if they remain unchecked.

The IMF's relatively upbeat projection, that the momentum of output growth will be reasonably well maintained in the near term, contrasts with fears voiced by some economists that the five-year-old recovery may fizzle out.

The organization admits that its economists have scaled back their forecast for real, inflation-adjusted, growth in the industrial countries to 2.6 per cent in 1988 from the 2.8 per cent they estimated last spring.

But the revised 1988 figure still represents an acceleration from the 2.4 per cent growth rate that the fund now expects for 1987.

The latest predictions are contained in the IMF's semi-annual world economic outlook, which has been distributed to member governments prior to the joint annual IMF/World Bank meetings in Washington.

The IMF has scaled back its projection for real GNP in the US next year to 2.7 per cent from 3.1 per cent. Britain's expansion is expected to drop to 2.2 per cent in 1988 from 3.3 per cent this year.

Crumbs of comfort from Japan figures

The modest fall in the Japanese trade surplus last month offers a few shreds of comfort ahead of today's US trade figures. Japan, of course, is not the only trading partner of the US but it is one of the biggest. If the Japanese surplus is falling then maybe the US deficit is too.

Although the two sets of figures are not for the same month, this line of thought was enough to give the dollar some support in the foreign exchange markets yesterday. Japan's trade surplus fell in August from \$6.17 billion (seasonally adjusted to \$5.91 billion and the bilateral surplus with the US from \$4.79 billion to \$3.73 billion).

There was no sudden rash of consumerism among the Japanese, since imports were up only fractionally, but the strong yen does seem to have had a dampening effect on exports which fell last month by 1.2 per cent.

Whether the world's finance ministers due to gather in Washington at the end of the month will be much impressed by the rate of progress towards greater balance in the current accounts of the world's leading economies seems doubtful.

Yesterday the latest forecasts of the International Monetary Fund began to leak out in time honoured fashion. The forecast, reported in detail on this page, shows that the IMF still expects some small improvement in the rate of growth of the world economy next year but it is less optimistic than in the spring, forecasting growth of 2.6 per cent compared with 2.8 per cent in the earlier forecasts.

The major threat, says the IMF bluntly, is the continuing trade imbalance, though it loyally maintains that policy changes made earlier in the year will help.

The forecasts show clearly how far domestic policies are still out of balance with one another. In particular, the West German economy is expected to grow by only 1.5 per cent this year and 2.3 per cent next, considerably slower than the 2.4 per cent and 2.7 per cent expected in the US where fiscal policy is much more expansionary and inflation a re-emerging problem.

Judging by these figures the flavour of the autumn meetings promises to be very similar to that of the spring. The US cannot hope to see any rapid improvement unless it makes faster progress towards reducing its budget deficit.

As Albert Wojnilower, managing director of First Boston, said yesterday in the absence of further fiscal restraint there is every prospect of further increases in interest rates. Yields on long bonds could rise from 9.6 per cent to 10.5 per cent and the Federal funds rate from 7 per cent to 7 1/4 per cent.

In the other direction the main pressure is likely to focus on West

Germany. A country where inflation is still barely positive and GDP fell quite sharply in the first quarter risks little by cautiously expanding its domestic demand. Prospects for the British economy in the medium term continue to depend heavily on developments overseas.

Timely reminder
When in doubt ask us. And we will say that if there is any reasonable cause to think that the market is being influenced by leaks about a possible bid, the offeror ought to make an announcement.

That is the firm message from the Takeover Panel, which yesterday reminded the merchant banking fraternity of its rule on when announcements have to be made.

In the process the Panel told the City, in the nicest possible way, that it is getting increasingly vexed by the relaxed attitude which many people seem to adopt on when announcements are necessary.

The Panel says that "tactical considerations" or the fact that a potential offeror has not quite completed its financing arrangements, do not justify silence. If there is speculation, and reasonable grounds for supposing the potential offeror caused it, then an announcement must be made.

The Panel calls on the merchant banks to remember the small shareholder.

The immediate reason for the Panel's statement is the Storehouse situation, where after a wave of speculation Mountleigh was forced to reveal its hand. Discussion subsequently took place between the Panel and Mountleigh's advisers, Phillips & Drew, on why it had taken so long for Mountleigh to put its hand up.

P&D received no public slap on the wrists and there is a suspicion in some quarters that the behaviour of some of the other characters in that particular drama was equally, if not more, relevant.

But the broader reason which underlies the Panel's statement and language, is the fact that merchant banks *en masse* have turned a blind eye to the rules on when an announcement is necessary. The rules themselves are unambiguous, as is the duty to consult. What has been ambiguous is the Panel's enforcement of the rules.

Two things are important here. First, that the Panel should apply its rules consistently to all situations where the early announcement rules come into play.

Secondly, that having issued its clarification, the Panel will in future be prepared to act if it is ignored. What has been lacking is not knowledge of the rule but a belief that anyone would get punished for breaking it.

Minister explains investment rules

By Catia Narwhing

Mr Francis Maude, Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs, yesterday began a tour of regional centres aimed at making sure that investment businesses across the country remember to seek authorization under the Financial Services Act by the end of this year.

Addressing the Welsh Consumer Council in Cardiff, he said the central provision of the Act was the requirement to be authorized. This would be implemented in early April. "That means that anyone who needs authorization must be in a position to apply for it by the end of the year at the latest."

Mr Maude underlined that the Act was very wide-ranging, applying to everybody from stockbrokers and merchant bankers to part-time insurance salesmen in every high street.

The section of the Act to be implemented next April will make it a criminal offence to conduct investment business in the United Kingdom unless authorized, or exempted.

The Act's chief aim is to make sure that only "fit and proper" people are allowed to carry on investment business. This concept includes honesty, competence, and solvency.

Only a day after the chairman of British Telecom said he was resigning amid criticism of his company's customer service record, Mr Maude also urged consumers to make their voice heard clearly to ensure that markets work efficiently.

He said it was not up to the Government to tell the market what consumers wanted. "Only consumers can do that, by complaining to the supplier when they do not get it."

Westgarth in £4.5m purchase

Richardsons, Westgarth, the engineering group, is buying John O'Holt & Son, a privately-owned steel stockholder, for a maximum of £4.5 million.

The company has also sold its central heating distribution business, Burgess Heating Merchants, to the Parkfield Group for about £350,000. The deal will swell Richardsons' coffers by about £1.7 million since Parkfield is also repaying £300,000 inter-group debt and assuming borrowings of £600,000.

Richardsons has been heavily restructured in recent years, selling off a number of businesses to cut back on losses. It also announced pre-tax profits yesterday of £90,000 for the six months to end-June, compared with £25,000 in the corresponding period last year.

Redland challenges plasterboard group

By Alexandra Jackson

The £250 million British plasterboard manufacturing monopoly which has been dominated by BPB Industries for many years is being challenged by Redland, another well-established building materials company, in joint venture with CSR, the Australian building materials, sugar and resources group.

The new company, Redland Plasterboard Ltd, 51 per cent owned by Redland and 49 per cent owned by CSR, plans to build two plasterboard plants in Britain with a view to winning 30 per cent of the 136,000 square metre British plasterboard market.

Unlike BPB, the joint venture has no British gypsum reserves — the raw material needed for plasterboard manufacture. It has, however, secured supplies from Spain. According to Mr Robert Napier, Redland managing direc-

tor, these are of better quality than British gypsum, so less will be needed in the manufacturing process.

The operation, which will cost £100 million over three years to establish, should be running by 1990. Mr Napier said he expected the business to be in profit by 1990-91. Redland expects to earn its normal 20 per cent return on this investment.

Mr Alan Turner, chairman of BPB, said: "We have always been aware that you cannot keep a good thing to yourself." However, he pointed to his company's long-established position in the marketplace, providing customers with a high-quality product and a good service. Although CSR manufactures plasterboard in Australia, he doubted that it had the necessary skills to build a greenfield plant in Britain.

Iran 'may help Saudis in Opec'

Vienna (Reuters) — An Iranian official yesterday said Iran and Saudi Arabia may, despite their political differences, be able to continue co-operating in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries oil cartel to keep oil prices up.

Mr Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, Iran's deputy oil minister, said, however, the Saudis would have to influence the Gulf Arab allies to stop producing more crude oil than Opec output quotas allowed. He named Iraq and Kuwait as over-producers.

Several Opec ministers are in Vienna discussing excess output by the cartel, which risks a glut that could jeopardize its efforts to defend a price of \$18-a barrel.

Mr Ardebili said: "Opec can divorce oil from politics. If Saudi Arabia contributes to getting their friends to adhere to quotas and help firm prices, they can count on our support."

"But if the Saudis do not take measures to get their friends to help the price, they will be contributing to a price war."

He also said that despite Iraqi air strikes against tankers, Iran could "see no problem in continuing our export shipments."

Co-operation between Iran and Saudi Arabia has been a key factor behind recent Opec price and output accords among the 13 fractious members. Political relations, however, between the two Opec heavyweights were soured by the deaths of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca last month.

Mr Ardebili said he did not plan to join the talks, which

are being held in two committees and bring together five cartel oil ministers, including Mr Riwanu Lukman, Opec president, of Nigeria, and Mr Hisham Nazer, the Saudi oil minister.

He said: "We will be asking the committees to make a study of production violations and see whether statistics are accurate so that Opec can come up with countries which have over-produced."

The United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq were the chief over-producers, Mr Ardebili said.

Minister's ill-guided missile

The spooks who have made the life of Spycatcher Peter Wright a misery for the last two or three years might usefully turn their attentions to a Cabinet minister. There was detectable embarrassment in government circles yesterday after an indication by Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King during a visit on Wednesday to Shorts, the Belfast aviation and missile company. In an impromptu Q&A session with TV reporters afterwards, King blithely revealed the existence of a large and hitherto unannounced contract to supply South Korea with Javelin anti-aircraft missiles, signed some months ago. As Shorts' chairman Sir Philip Foreman and other executives shuffled their feet uneasily, conscious of the stern inhibitions placed upon them by the Government over talking about such deals — and in South Korea's case imposed by the customer too — King, when asked what he had done recently to help Ulster's largest industrial employer, lamely replied: "Both the Prime Minister and I have been active in supporting an order for Javelin missiles from Korea". Oh dear...

● Latest definition of stock-broking — never having to say you're sorry.

Spilling over

There were sore heads, no doubt, at James Capel, the broker, this morning after the firm's massive office party under a marquee in the

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Raging shareholders

Taylor Woodrow's plans to establish Britain's biggest on-share gas field in the Vale of Pickering, North Yorkshire, could result in a posse of troublesome shareholders for BP. Residents in the neighbouring towns of Pickering and Malton have formed a pressure group known as Rage — Ryedale Against Gas Exploitation — supported by local Tory MP John Greenway.

grounds of the Honourable Artillery Company last night. Staff numbers have increased so dramatically in the past year or two — to more than 1,400 people in London alone, against 400 or so 10 years ago



"Does it mean having shareholders' meetings during the tea break?"

Now I hear that one of the instigators of Rage — one David Toft — has bought some BP shares and is encouraging other campaigners to do the same — either in the market now or as part of next month's flotation of government stock. BP apparently owns 49 per cent of the Taylor Woodrow-led consortium which will do the drilling. But it may soon wish it did not...

— that the party organizers were forced to settle for a tent so they could all be under one roof and still within the Square Mile. "It had to be near the office," says Mike Gearing, head of research, "but because of the numbers, it was difficult to find a venue." Last year they filled the Whitbread Brewery in Chiswell Street to capacity and this year, even that was not big enough. Asked whether spouses would also be going, Gearing replied: "No, of course not, they want to enjoy themselves." Joking, of course...

● Enough to drive one completely round the bend... the latest gimmick to go on sale at Bloomingdale's in New York is a \$140 teddy bear with a telephone in its tummy. Once you have dialled and begun to speak, its mouth moves in synchronization with your words.

Sharing a celebrity

One unusual but sure-fire way to ensure celebrities frequent a restaurant is to give them a share stake — free of charge. Theme Holdings, the restaurant group listed on the Third Market, whose founders, Roger Myers and Alan Lubin, created the trendy London venues Peppercorn Park and Coconut Grove, has done just that for its first American entrée, The London Brasserie, which opens in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 26. Ringo Starr, Bill Wyman and Willie Nelson have been given a shareholding in the restaurant of almost 10 per cent between them. They and a host of other British stars — including Joan Collins, Michael Caine and Phil Collins — will be at its opening party, a traditional English-style street party. Other Theme Holdings restaurants in the US are planned and a graduation to the Unlisted Securities Market will not, I am told, be far away.

X-rated beer

Australian entrepreneur Alan Bond's \$1.2 billion bid for the American brewery G Heileman could yet turn into an agreed deal. But whatever the outcome, his entry into the American beer market will force him to change his Castlemaine XXXX advertising campaign used with great success in both Australia and Britain. XXXX is apparently the name of a leading American condom brand.

Carol Leonard

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11th September, 1987

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John G. Ellis

Cookson beats City expectations with 60% surge to £68m

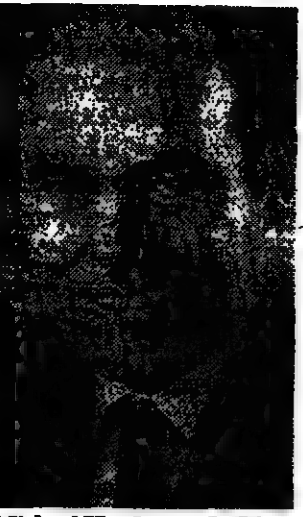
By Alison Eadie

Cookson Group, the specialist metals and chemicals group, yesterday announced a 60 per cent surge in pretax profits to £68.8 million in the half year to the end of June. Turnover rose 27 per cent to £582.3 million.

The results were higher than most analysts expected and the dividend was lifted by a greater-than-expected margin to 4p from 2.75p. The increase reflected the company's confidence in the future, said Mr Michael Henderson, the chief executive.

Tioxide contributed more than half of the overall profits improvement, as demand remained at record levels. The market for titanium dioxide has been improving for the past five years with an acceleration in the past two years.

Prices and demand have been rising, as Western economies emerged from recession in recent years. Increased volume has provided cost advantages to the leading producers. Cookson is increasing its capacity by more than 20 per cent over the next two to three years.



Michael Henderson: looking ahead with confidence

Tioxide's main use, taking 65 per cent of output, is as white pigment in paint. Its use in plastics and specialized paper is also increasing and there is no ready or cheap substitute for it.

The remaining profits improvement came half from acquisitions and half from an across-the-board improvement among Cookson's di-

visions. There was also a 45 per cent fall in interest costs to £4.7 million after the £162 million rights issue last February.

Better results were achieved in the new Cookson Metals & Chemicals division, formed by the merger of the Materials and the Fry divisions. Higher prices of metals helped and further significant progress was made in the lithographic plate business.

Cookson Ceramics & Plastics showed a strong European performance.

Cookson America made higher profits against a better background in the electronics industry. Some of the metals businesses experienced difficult trading conditions, but brass milled products, precious metals, and the newly acquired plastics operations did well.

Earnings per share were up 38 per cent at 26p, somewhat less than the profits improvement due to the extra rights issue capital.

Cookson shares eased back 9p to 803p on the results, having run up from 760p to 820p in the last two weeks ahead of the interims.

Laing up to £13.2m at halfway

By Alexandra Jackson

The buoyancy of the private housing market has again enabled a leading British building company to increase its profits despite a dull civil engineering market. Half-year pretax profits from John Laing to end-June were 10 per cent higher at £13.2 million. The growth in operating profits was more substantial, an increase from £10.4 million to £14.1 million. The interim dividend was raised from 1.67p to 2p.

The group completed 1,050 homes, about the same as last year, but profits virtually doubled, helped by selling prices about 20 per cent higher, land sales and increased efficiencies.

Profits from building and civil engineering were down owing to the incidence of contract completions. Full-year profits, however, are expected to match those of last year.

Laing invested £20 million in its housing activities in the first half. This extra cost was one of the factors that caused a £2.5 million swing, from £1.6 million interest received to £0.9 million paid. The investment in land should rise to £30 million for the year as a whole but the group should remain cash-positive.

City analysts are forecasting an increase of profits for the full year of at least 10 per cent to around £43 million.

Birmingham Mint optimism

Mr Colin Perry, the chairman of the Birmingham Mint Group, told yesterday's annual meeting that the two recent acquisitions, both announced last December, had contributed strongly to group profits since they were acquired and both are currently experiencing a healthy level of sales. Growth in other parts of the group gives the board cause for optimism.

JR Gann has in the last few weeks taken orders for military supplies totalling about £4 million from countries in Africa and the Middle East, which are due for completion this year. The engineering products division has increased its output rapidly in recent weeks as the substantial microwave oven contracts have come on stream to the point where they will shortly be contributing an additional annual turnover of about £5 million. The group expects another satisfactory year, with continuing growth prospects in the future.

In brief

● **LYON & LYON:** Half-year to June 30. Interim dividend 1.5p (1.5p). With figures in £000: Turnover 8,086 (7,716). Pretax profit 291 (210). Extraordinary debit 81,000 (nil). Earnings per share 3.86p (3.94p).

● **ALUMASC GROUP:** Year to June 28. Total dividend 7.5p. With figures in £000: Turnover 30,865 (26,366). Pretax profit 5,026 (2,766). Earnings per share 28.2p (15.8p).

● **NEW DARIEN OIL TRUST:** Half-year to July 31. Net profit £38,793 (£44,304). Earnings per share 0.39p (0.44p).

● **TRIANGLE TRUST:** The trust, formerly Sharma Ware, has entered into a conditional agreement to acquire Elliott Bayley Co for 1 million new ordinary shares worth £2.7 million. Bayley is an independent life and pension insurance brokerage, offering a wide range of products in this area, together with insurance advisory services, corporate and personal pension schemes.

● **TOLCATE HOLDINGS:** Year to June 30. Final dividend 10 cents. With figures in £000: Pretax profit 15,201 (£4.5 million), against 9,596. Turnover 145,057 (126,867). Earnings per share 32.2 cents (22 cents).

● **JOHN CROWTHER:** Six months to June 30. Interim dividend 1.25p (1p). With figures in £000: Turnover 135,973 (83,024). Pretax profit 6,730 (3,645). Extraordinary debit 918 (nil). Earnings per share 5.1p (4.3p).

● **JAMES NEILL HOLDINGS:** Interim dividend 3p (2.5p) for the six months to June 30. With figures in £000: Sales 42,159 (42,692). Pretax profit 3,784 (3,648). Pretax profit 154 (480). Earnings per share 2.16p (6.69p).

● **MTM:** Interim dividend 1p (nil) for the six months to June 30. With figures in £000: Turnover 19,158 (16,884). Pretax profit 1,812 (1,889). Earnings per share 3.8p (4.9p).

● **JAMES WILKES:** Half-year to June 30. Interim dividend 3.3p (3p). With figures in £000: Turnover 3,327 (3,201). Trading profit 384 (283). Extraordinary item, debit 109 (nil). Earnings per share 6.1p (4.3p). The board is now aiming to expand the group through the acquisition of companies in fields where substantial growth opportunities exist. To this end, Cumbrina Land, which is involved in waste disposal, land reclamation and skip hire, was acquired for an issue of 236,000 shares.

● **NURDUN AND PEACOCK:** Half-year to July 4. Interim dividend 1.6p (1.6p, adjusted). With figures in £000: Turnover 423,554 (392,062). Pretax profit 3,168 (4,814). Earnings per share 2.1p (3.3p adjusted).

● **FORWARD TECHNOLOGY:** Six months to June 30 (comparisons adjusted). With figures in £000: Turnover 13,419 (15,198). Pretax profit 925 (420). Earnings per share 1.6p (1p). No interim dividend.

● **MALLET:** Six months to June 30. Interim dividend 1.3p (nil). With figures in £000: Turnover 5,339 (4,599). Pretax profit 1,470 (1,222). Adjusted earnings per share 7.6p (6.44p).

● **INSTEAM:** Half-year to June 26. Interim dividend 1p (1p). With figures in £000: Turnover 3,784 (3,648). Pretax profit 154 (480). Earnings per share 2.16p (6.69p).

● **MINTY:** Conditional contracts have been exchanged for acquisition of the business and tangible assets of Aerofarm for £1.53 million and arrangements have been made to raise about £1.5 million in cash through the placing of 333,334 new shares at 45p each. Aerofarm's upholstered furniture and foam conversion businesses are of roughly the same size.

● **KLEINWORT BENSON INTERNATIONAL INCOME BOND FUND:** Period to September 2, 1987. Total dividend 31.78p (33.24p, adjusted). With figures in £000: Gross revenue 3,628 (2,515). Net revenue 2,977 (2,178).

● **TRONOH MINES:** Six months to June 30. Interim dividend 7 sen (nil). Figures in Malaysian dollars. Pretax profit \$1.08 million (£260,000), against \$722,000. Extraordinary credit \$4.57 million (nil). Turnover \$5.74 million (\$1.63 million). Earnings per share, excluding extraordinary credit, 6.58 sen (0.42 sen loss).

● **NORTH KALGURLI MINES:** Total dividend 2 cents (Australian) for the 54 weeks to June 30, compared with 4 cents for the previous 52 weeks. With figures in Aus\$000. Operating revenue \$7,660 (£38.6 million), against 42,362. Pretax profit 23,604 (6,979). Extraordinary item, 1,703 debit (nil).

● **CANTORS:** Year to April 25. Total dividend 3p (2.25p). With figures in £000: Turnover (excluding VAT) 32,081 (28,197). Surplus on sale of freehold properties 466 (nil). Pretax profit 2,245 (976). One-for-one scrip issue proposed.

● **P-E INTERNATIONAL:** Interim dividend 1.2p (1p) for the six months to June 30. With figures in £000: Fees 13,873 (11,819). Pretax profit 1,341 (1,010). Extraordinary income (290). Earnings per share before extraordinary income 6.8p (5.6p).

● **CONTINENTAL MICRO-WAVE:** Year to June 30. With figures in £000: Total dividend 2.8p (2.25p). Turnover 14,551 (10,984). Pretax profit 1,259 (963). Earnings per share 12.6p (8.7p) and fully diluted 12.6p (9.2p).

● **DELANEY GROUP:** Six months to June 30. Comparative figures restated. Interim dividend 1.1p (0.9p), payable on November 20. With figures in £000: Turnover 7,254 (5,390). Pretax profit 867 (563). Earnings per share 4.36p (2.76p).

● **A&C BLACK:** Six months to June 30. Interim dividend 3.75p (3.5p). With figures in £000: Turnover 2,390 (2,563). Pretax profit 324 (314). Extraordinary credit nil (36). Earnings per share 15.6p (14.8p).

● **ORCHID TECHNOLOGY:** Year to June 30. Dividend 0.5 cents. With figures in £000: Pretax income 6,505 (£3.9 million), against 1,784. Revenues 24,985 (11,427). Earnings per share 14 cents (4.8 cents).

Brazil claims progress in debt talks with US

Brasilia (Reuters) — Senior Luis Carlos Bresser Pereira, Brazil's finance minister, said yesterday that Brazil and the United States had both given ground in debt talks in Washington.

He was speaking after talks with Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary.

Mr Baker earlier said a debt plan by Brazil to convert half its foreign bank debt to securities at a big discount was a non-starter. The Brazilian minister later, however, ended his proposal, saying the banks could decide on their degree of participation.

Brazil's media said Mr Baker had "shot down" the minister's proposals. Senior Bresser Pereira, however, said: "This is ridiculous. It is not Mr Baker's place to do this, nor would I have allowed it. There were concessions on both sides."

He said Brazil did not want to "radicalize" its position and thus cut itself off from the international financial market.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					
Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Set Val
Sep 87	80.08	80.08	80.08	80.08	80
Oct 87	80.07	80.07	80.07	80.07	3607
Nov 87	80.06	80.06	80.06	80.06	3606
Dec 87	80.05	80.05	80.05	80.05	3605
Jan 88	80.04	80.04	80.04	80.04	3604
Feb 88	80.03	80.03	80.03	80.03	3603
Mar 88	80.02	80.02	80.02	80.02	3602
Apr 88	80.01	80.01	80.01	80.01	3601
May 88	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	3600
Jun 88	79.99	79.99	79.99	79.99	3599
Previous day's total open interest 18574					
Three Month Eurodollar	Open	High	Low	Close	Set Val
Sep 87	95.47	95.47	95.47	95.47	1298
Oct 87	95.46	95.46	95.46	95.46	2680
Nov 87	95.45	95.45	95.45	95.45	1713
Dec 87	95.44	95.44	95.44	95.44	323
Jan 88	95.43	95.43	95.43	95.43	0
Feb 88	95.42	95.42	95.42	95.42	0
Mar 88	95.41	95.41	95.41	95.41	0
Apr 88	95.40	95.40	95.40	95.40	0
May 88	95.39	95.39	95.39	95.39	0
Jun 88	95.38	95.38	95.38	95.38	0
Previous day's total open interest 25008					
US Treasury Bond	Open	High	Low	Close	Set Val
Sep 87	94.05	94.05	94.05	94.05	29
Oct 87	94.04	94.04	94.04	94.04	7798
Nov 87	94.03	94.03	94.03	94.03	0
Dec 87	94.02	94.02	94.02	94.02	0
Jan 88	94.01	94.01	94.01	94.01	0
Feb 88	94.00	94.00	94.00	94.00	0
Mar 88	93.99	93.99	93.99	93.99	0
Apr 88	93.98	93.98	93.98	93.98	0
May 88	93.97	93.97	93.97	93.97	0
Jun 88	93.96	93.96	93.96	93.96	0
Previous day's total open interest 8008					
Long Oil	Open	High	Low	Close	Set Val
Sep 87	118.09	118.09	118.09	118.09	381
Oct 87	118.08	118.08	118.08	118.08	8017
Nov 87	118.07	118.07	118.07	118.07	0
Dec 87	118.06	118.06	118.06	118.06	0
Jan 88	118.05	118.05	118.05	118.05	0
Feb 88	118.04	118.04	118.04	118.04	0
Mar 88	118.03	118.03	118.03	118.03	0
Apr 88	118.02	118.02	118.02	118.02	0
May 88	118.01	118.01	118.01	118.01	0
Jun 88	118.00	118.00	118.00	118.00	0
Previous day's total open interest 21752					
FT-SE 100	Open	High	Low	Close	Set Val
Sep 87	228.00	228.00	228.00	228.00	1830
Oct 87	228.00	228.00	228.00	228.00	679
Nov 87	228.00	228.00	228.00	228.00	0
Dec 87	228.00	228.00	228.00	228.00	0
Jan 88	228.00	228.00	228.00	228.00	0
Feb 88	228.00	228.00	228.00	228.00	0
Mar 88	228.00	228.00	228.00	228.00	0
Apr 88	228.00	228.00	228.00	228.00	0
May 88	228.00	228.00	228.00	228.00	0
Jun 88	228.00	228.00	228.00	228.00	0
Previous day's total open interest 7011					
Japanese Government Bond	Open	High	Low	Close	Set Val
Sep 87	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	464
Oct 87	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	0
Nov 87	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	0
Dec 87	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	0
Jan 88	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	0
Feb 88	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	0
Mar 88	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	0
Apr 88	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	0
May 88	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	0
Jun 88	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	0
Previous day's total open interest 729					



When the business has made a profit, how does the corporate treasurer explain a loss?

Your case is clear. You knew the risks of an exposed foreign exchange position.

Fully hedging it would have meant an opportunity cost. So, you took a view.

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An option could have been your best insurance against an abrupt reversal of your projections, or an aborted contract overseas.

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Even in the unforeseeable future, we may have helped you cover fully for up to ten years, and in some cases, more, against long-term risk - with our Forward Exchange Facilities.

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Japan, conqueror of the West's auto and electronics industries, is on the offensive again. And the target this time is the City's financial services.

In December 1986, six of the nine largest banks in the world were Japanese and Japanese banks held nearly 32% of total bank assets worldwide.

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GOING TO COLLEGE

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Right choice for a bright future

The opportunities of an adult world open up for young people going to college this autumn, and for graduates career prospects have seldom been better, says Edward Fennell

Forecasting employment trends is as difficult as predicting the weather — but a lot more risky. At least Michael Fish and co. have little more on their consciences than a few spoiled picnics and washed-out village fetes. But any expert who tries predicting where the jobs will be three or four years hence could be endangering the futures of thousands of young people.

The problem is particularly difficult now because all the omens look encouraging. Given the prevailing conditions it is tempting to issue golden promises left, right and centre.

Unfortunately a variety of experiences since the early 1970s have shown how easy it is for apparent certainties to go sour. Chemical engineers, teachers, geologists and even doctors have all discovered at different times that they are stuck in the wrong places, at the wrong time with the wrong kind of qualification. Yet a few years earlier all the indications might have been that their choice of career was most prudent.

So any advice you hear about the prospects for particular jobs has to be treated with caution. The future really is unpredictable. The politics of the Gulf, Britain's relationship with China, a different administration and the construction of the Channel Tunnel are the kind of major events that could fundamentally affect job opportunities for graduates in fields as diverse as civil engineering, mining, the social sciences and education.

With that proviso, therefore, and heavily qualifying everything from here on in, prospects for graduates have seldom seemed better. That is also the view of the Government as well as some newspaper pundits.

A White Paper, *Higher Education — Meeting the Challenge*, published earlier this year admitted: "It is hard to forecast the long-term demand for specific skills", but went on to throw its weight behind the view that opportu-



Nick Rogers

nities for graduates will continue to expand while the numbers of students coming through the system is likely to diminish.

As the White Paper says, "There is no reason to suppose that employers' requirements will fall in parallel with the one-third fall in the size of the 18-19 age group by 1996. The current shortage of highly qualified scientists and engineers, particularly in fields related to information technology, are well-documented."

"Graduates in those and other disciplines — especially business-related social sciences — who have the qualities necessary for management posts are also reported as being in short supply."

What is also encouraging is that unemployment among new graduates is at the lowest level for seven years and that graduates are less than half as likely as non-graduates to be unemployed.

Information technology, for example, is bound to grow. The designers of hardware, and graduate-level software experts seem certain to be much in demand for years ahead.

The same applies to engineers and technologists in general. The Engineering Council, which is the voice of professional engineers in this country, has been going an admirable job recently by hammering home the message that we need many more engineers.

Most leading engineering companies will candidly confess to great difficulty in recruiting graduates. There is much talk of the dire threat to the country as a whole — not to mention the tremendous opportunities that are in danger of being missed — if more able young people do not train for the engineering industry.

The problem facing engineering is that for many years it has been unable to compete with the salaries paid in the professions or commerce. The recent explosion of "reward packages" in the City has merely underlined the extent to which engineers are being left behind.

Will this change? One upshot of the improvements in productivity and the slimming

Student life: the pleasures of relaxation, and the moment of truth as exam results are read

of the work-force in manufacturing industry is that there should be more money to spare for the key technologists who provide the brainpower behind the latest developments.

But maybe more than money is needed to satisfy Britain's young engineers. Unfortunately there are often stories of the inability of Britain's largest engineering companies to nurture or value the talent they recruit.

Poor middle management and lack of inspiration from the top can easily lead to disillusionment. At a time

when higher education is making a real effort to produce highly skilled and market-oriented engineers, it is tragic to see the clumsiness of some of the large corporations in the way they handle their most important asset: their professional talent.

One result of this has been the renewal of the brain drain, although a study by the Manpower Services Commission published last month showed that this was much less of a feature of the graduate employment scene than media publicity might have suggested.

Even so, the people who certainly do benefit from a brain drain out of industry are the firms of accountants, the management consultants and even the solicitors who can

offer the prospect of large salaries and high prestige to win graduates from science and technology disciplines.

Not that any of these career fields is bursting at the rim with applicants. Though there are certainly large numbers now entering both the law and accountancy, their numbers do not keep up with demand.

Something like 10 per cent of new graduates now go into accountancy and still there are more vacancies to be filled. Solicitors too are increasingly anxious that they cannot recruit enough trainees.

Arthur Andersen, which is the world's biggest firm of management consultants, has a permanently open door both to very able new graduates and to other professionals (every-one from medics to professional civil servants) who want to change their career direction after five years or so.

In fields like social services and public administration, it is harder to be so optimistic about prospects. Government policy is clearly the decisive factor here and maybe by the 1990s its inner-city policy will have produced new ways to work for those who want a career in the public service.

Concern is already widespread about lowering of standards, morale and prospects among key groups such as the administrative trainee class in the Civil Service.

Even so, undergraduates as a whole can afford to be confident about their futures.

Why we are backing success



By Robert Jackson, Minister for higher education

Higher education must be an adventure for the new student. There are no specific threats to life and limb, but it is full of intellectual challenge: the need to explore, master and thrive at high altitudes. You have to meet rigorous standards. Character, comprising your stamina and resolve, as much as your intellectual capacity, will be tested as never before.

Britain's higher education is among the best in the world, mainly because it offers so searching an examination of those who undertake it. There can be no question of any lowering of the widely-respected levels of attainment which it demands. Indeed, the whole thrust of the Government's policy for higher education is to promote great rigour and higher quality.

Much is changing, and more change is planned. Why is this, if we are so sure of the quality of what we already do? The reason is that at last in Britain we are beginning to accept that to stand still in a fast-moving world is to fall behind. This is especially true in higher education, which is, among other things, central to the country's effort to earn its living.

This year's White Paper, *Higher Education: Meeting the Challenge*, sets the agenda. There must be wider access to higher education, continuing emphasis on improving quality and efficiency, independence for the polytechnics and other major colleges, and important reforms in planning and funding.

To achieve our goals — and we cannot afford not to — calls for renewed efforts from a wider partnership: not just the institutions of higher education, but also industry and commerce, schools, parents and, of course, the students.

Let me highlight one important element of this partnership — all the work that is going into building more effective links with industry and commerce. I make no apology for giving pride of place to the polytechnics, because they are setting such a hot pace. The figures speak for themselves: ● In 1985, 70 per cent of poly-

technic students were on engineering, science, computing, business studies or other directly vocational courses.

● In 1984-85, the average polytechnic earned about £800,000 from research and consultancy in engineering, computing and technology.

● One of the many polytechnic companies conducted more than 850 consultations for industry in a five-year period.

● More than 250 businesses, from multinationals to small local concerns, have used polytechnic short training courses in the last three years.

● Polytechnics have arranged industrial secondments for hundreds of staff.

All this spells success, for the polytechnics themselves, for the businesses they are involved with, and for the students who will be working for those businesses and others like them.

But it is not all. The polytechnics have also made themselves more cost-effective, while maintaining their academic standards. The number of first-class degrees their students gained in 1985 was 20 per cent higher than in the previous year.

This impressive performance explains why the Government has decided to establish the polytechnics, and certain other colleges, as independent institutions, funded through a new council. We are backing success, and we know that we shall not be disappointed.

The universities, too, are responding to the need for closer links with the business world. Through their industrial liaison centres and direct departmental contacts with industry, they considerably increased their earnings between 1982-83 and 1985-86 (from £23 million to £59.3 million, more than double in real terms).

A future of enormous potential awaits all young people embarking on the adventure of higher education. I urge them, men and women alike, to think hard about how they can best use their talents to benefit the country as well as themselves.

What to do if you haven't got a Student Coach Card.

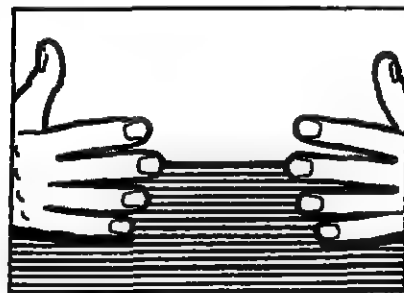


fig 1. Flex fingers.



fig 2. With fingers spread, advance towards each other.

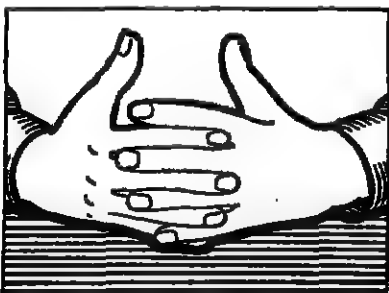


fig 3. Interlock fingers carefully together.



fig 4. Slowly elevate left thumb up to one inch above hand.

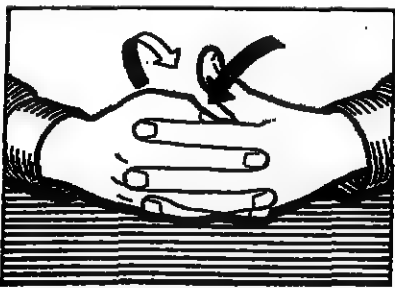


fig 5. Now slowly elevate right thumb so that it fills the space between other thumb and hand.

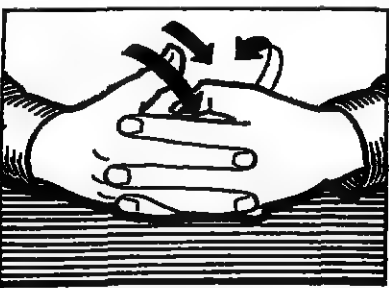


fig 6. Begin to revolve top thumb in a clockwise direction.



fig 7. In synchronised time, now begin to revolve other thumb.



fig 8. Speed up action to rhythm that suits your personal taste.



fig 9. Congratulations. You are now twiddling your thumbs.

If you haven't got a Student Coach Card, what can you do except twiddle your thumbs? You can't cash in on the 33% off standard National Express and Scottish Citylink coach fares. So you can't afford to see your friends and loved ones as often as you like. Or get away over the weekends for a

break. Or follow your favourite pop group. The Student Coach Card will help you do all this and more. It costs just £3.50 and lasts for a whole 12 months. So pull your fingers out and get your Student Coach Card. Available from most student travel offices or many of our agents.

STUDENT COACH CARD

While Roy and Jean tangoed they got to know each other better...

Hmm - her purse is heavy - she must have saved £6 on a half-price Railcard.

A Young Persons Railcard! And I thought he was old enough to be my father!

Be somewhere else with a ... Young Persons Railcard.

From September 1st to November 7th, railcards are £6 instead of £12. If you're between 16 and 25, you'll save even more on your next rail journey. Pick up a special offer leaflet for full details.



**BEFORE YOU OPEN A
STUDENT ACCOUNT
WEIGH UP HOW MUCH CASH
THE BANKS ARE OFFERING.**

Deciding which bank to open your account with can be a weighty problem. Especially when they're making tempting cash offers.

*That's why we're giving students who open an account with us a £15 credit.**

It's far more than you'll get from any other bank. And, together with everything else we're offering you, it means our student package is very weighty indeed.

For a start, there's our Connect Card, which should come in very handy. On the one hand you can use it to draw cash from over 3,000 dispensers.

On the other, it's accepted instead of a cheque at VISA outlets. (Which means you won't have the bother of writing cheques out.)

Banking with us is free of course. So that should save you a bit of money.

But if you ever do have any financial problems, then your Student Business Officer is the person to see.

They can give you all sorts of advice on budgeting and other ways of making your grant last longer.

And they can even arrange a £200 overdraft for you at a special rate of interest, if you ever need it.*

In fact, you'll find that we have everything you need to make living on your grant easier.

So why not open an account now? It'll be a weight off your mind.

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150-151

FOCUS

GOING TO COLLEGE/2

Study the budget — above all else

The Department of Education and Science agrees with the National Union of Students that student grants are inadequate, and the House of Commons Select Committee on Education agrees with the DES, writes Anthony Cox.

"In our view," said the committee, "the current level of award is inhibiting students of academic quality from pursuing their courses to the best of their ability."

Patrick Young, an NUS vice-president, said: "Research has shown that the decline in the value of the grant, particularly since 1979, has resulted in real financial hardship for today's students. The burden of support has fallen increasingly on parents, whether or not they can afford it."

The editors of Newcastle University's alternative prospectus advise their readers: "If you want to come to university next year, start being nice to your parents: clean your bedroom out, wash the dishes, do not stay out late — you are going to need their support because you'll get little from the government."

6 if you want to go to university, start being nice to your parents: clean your bedroom out... do not stay out late; you are going to need their support

According to NUS figures, the value of the grant has fallen by 21 per cent since 1979, and the restoration of that loss is one of the union's central campaigns. But while the campaigning goes on, students have to live.

The new student's first serious encounter with money — after making an application for that inadequate grant — is likely to be with a bank. It may seem odd that such an impoverished group as students should be so actively wooed by the financial world, but the banks take the long-term view that today's poor student is tomorrow's affluent customer.

National Westminster, for example, boasts that it has a

38 per cent share of the whole student market, and that last year it "achieved" 41 per cent of all accounts opened by first-year students.

The banks start by giving money away to any student to open an account. The offers range from Barclays Bank's £15 credit to the Co-operative Bank's £5 gift voucher. Of greater importance is the service you will receive to help you manage your money. (See table for details of banking services.)

Student financial planning hinges on getting through term one without incurring excessive debt: go steady on the beer and the curries consumed on evenings out with new friends.

The first step towards financial control is the construction of an income and expenditure budget. The grant, parental contributions and vacation and part-time earnings are the main sources of income, although there may be others: building-society interest, for example. These should be totalled, not too optimistically, for comparison with expenditure.

↑ Social Studies
↑ Arts Centre
← Library

Engineering



Working it out on campus: finance is a key factor in student success

The main items here will include rent, heating and lighting, food and drink, laundry, travel, vacation expenses, books, stationery, telephone, clothes, entertainment, insurance and personal spending. Meeting rent and fuel bills should be treated as particularly important.

The object of the budgeting

exercise is to obtain a clear picture of your financial position and to ensure that your income and expenditure do not get too much out of balance.

It is much more realistic to expect to end the academic year somewhat overdrawn. One can then work through the summer vacation to clear

debts and get a head start for the new term.

Careful monitoring of income and expenditure allows for control of the end-of-year debt. Most of the banks will allow students to borrow on overdraft at a preferential rate of interest.

Contributions from parents are best paid by regular stand-

SAVING BANKS OFFER STUDENT CUSTOMERS

Bank	1	2	3	4	5	6
Barclays	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Co-op	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Midland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Natwest	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
TSB	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Yorkshire	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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An undergrad guide to cheerful living

Students in Leeds are fortunate, according to the university's alternative prospectus: "Unlike many other university towns and cities, Leeds does not have a major accommodation crisis."

For students elsewhere the position is often quite different. Many count themselves lucky to find a bed of their own, light, heat, somewhere to work and a share in cooking, bathroom and laundry facilities.

In salubrious Bath, for example, the university's alternative prospectus warns: "Unfortunately, this is one of the bleak spots of living in a beautiful city: accommodation is in short supply and what there is is often expensive and difficult to heat."

Durham's alternative prospectus warns that much of the available housing is "often cold, damp and cramped, with coal fires." Durham winters usually provide a test of student resilience to sub-zero temperatures.

Here is a breakdown of student housing:

● **Halls of residence:** Most universities and colleges allocate hall accommodation for first-year students, and some actually insist on it for newcomers. Probably a third of students live in halls, which are blocks of purpose-built study-bedrooms.

The most important aspect of living in hall for the new student is that it provides an easy way of making friends. Meals are included (although cost-cutting exercises are leading towards an increase in self-catering) and the rental is generally all-inclusive, thus removing the threat of extra bills; and halls are generally on or very close to the campus.

On the debit side, charges can be high and rooms are often tiny, with the world's narrowest beds; residents have little control over what they eat - or when - and there are no refunds on missed meals.

● **College-managed self-catering accommodation:** This represents a half-way stage between living on the campus and living out. Groups of students take over their own college-owned flat and in return for a "fair rent" (one assessed by the local council's Rent Officer) usually get centrally-heated housing of a good standard in which facilities are shared.

● **Shared flats or houses:** These are the most popular but can be expensive and hard to find. Sharing with friends offers independence and freedom to establish one's own "life style", but is not without disadvantages. Flatmates have to agree on standards of cleanliness and tidiness.

● **Lodgings or digs:** This means taking a room with a family and paying an all-in charge for bed, breakfast and evening meal. While some lodgings can be a "home from home", others are dreadful. Generally, though, lodgings are good value.

● **Bed-sits:** This is the lonely option, attractive only to those who want to concentrate on work and who can look after themselves. Bed-sitting rooms are invariably what their name implies: the kitchen and bathroom have to be shared, but without any suggestion of communal living. Furniture is usually junk and the decor tatty. "Central heating is still a thing of the future in bed-sit land and wall-to-wall carpeting is unheard of," warns the Leeds alternative prospectus.

All educational institutions offer help in finding accommodation. They will arrange places in halls where these have been guaranteed for new students, and they will also offer advice on lodgings, houses and flats.

Renting a place in college-owned accommodation should not lead to any problems, provided one abides by the house rules, but students living in housing's private sector have to protect themselves.

Anthony Cox

What happens when a student shows dissatisfaction with a prized course in higher education? Anthony Cox checks

Entry into higher education is one of life's adventures, and however worldly-wise (or weary) students eventually seem to become, no one starts that first term at college, polytechnic or university without a sense of anticipation. But for some, the initial enthusiasm evaporates all too soon, sometimes within a week or two.

Students seek to make changes in their academic careers for many reasons: they might find the work too difficult, too boring or downright unenjoyable; they might not like the method or style of teaching, there may be personality clashes with staff or fellow students or there may be personal problems. After half a term of increasing disillusionment, Clare Cox, aged 20, last year quit, with no regrets, her HND business studies course at a specialist London college.

She said: "The course bore little resemblance to its prospectus description. It was rather like one of those holiday brochure scandals where the artist's impression of your luxury hotel is considerably in advance of reality."

But whatever the reason, no student should ever feel guilty about being unhappy with a course or an institution.

Peter Sullivan, for 16 years head of graphic design at Canterbury College of Art, said: "I would think that if a



A gleam in the eye as a combined honours course starts at Newcastle University

The itch to switch

student decides after a few weeks that he's on the wrong course, that's a reflection on the institution's interview procedures.

"The initial interview should give tutor and applicant every opportunity to make sure that the course is the right one."

Confident that no one is going to blame him, a student who is unhappy with a course should speak out as soon as dissatisfaction is felt.

All educational institutions are familiar with the student who arrives late for classes,

then hardly ever arrives again, and for whom no grades can be awarded because work is never submitted. Such a pattern of behaviour is a symptom of dissatisfaction with a course, although some would see it as a cry for help.

Mr Sullivan puts some of the blame for this state of affairs on the generally poorly assisted transition from school to higher education.

"People need to be taught how to function in the college environment," he said. "I don't think schools equip pupils for the challenge of

studenthood. 'Schoolkids' are suddenly expected to become 'students' simply by changing institution."

The first step for the student seeking to alter direction is to consult a sympathetic member of staff, either the personal tutor, who is supposed to exercise a "pastoral" role, or a class or course tutor.

Mr Sullivan said: "Students seeking to switch institution can benefit from the network of staff contacts with other colleges."

Changing courses can be very difficult, and changing

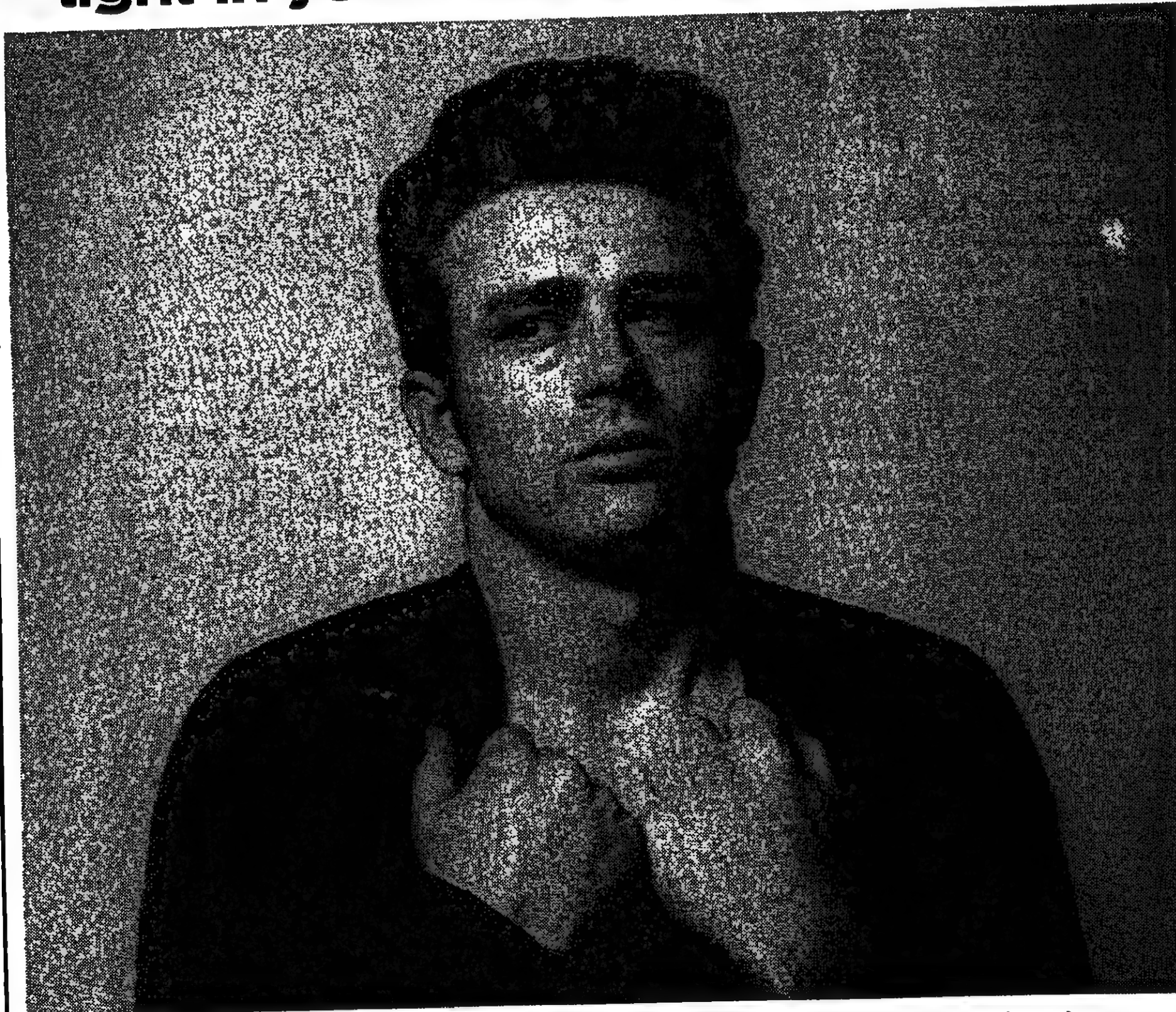
institutions even more so. Practices and procedures are variable, and can be idiosyncratic, although there is an increasing measure of agreement, which is evidenced by the rise of the Council for National Academic Awards' Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS), which offers counselling and negotiates transfers, and the Educational Counselling and Credit Transfer Information Service (PO Box 88, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6DB), which can help with advice about the "transfer value" of previous, possibly incomplete, study.

Discussions with academic and counselling staff may well help to resolve the personal and educational aspects of changing courses, but there remains the question of the financial implications.

Students receiving mandatory awards may transfer courses and keep their entitlement to a grant provided transfers are fully supported by the institution or institutions concerned and that the support is obtained within 14 months of the start of the course. If the 14-month time limit has passed, a transfer can be effected only if the new course finishes no later than the completion date of the original course.

The need for prompt decision-making is simply illustrated for these students who decide to discontinue their studies altogether. Only students who discontinue within the first term can preserve their right to a grant for a second attempt at higher education.

Without NatWest, things can get tight in your first weeks at college.



When term starts, you're going to need to get your hands on some money straightaway. And if you haven't banked your grant cheque you certainly won't be able to touch that.

Because it will take a while to organise a bank account, opening one now could save you a lot of aggravation later.

We'll start you off by putting £12 into your account and we won't ask for it back. We'll also give you free banking* and preferential interest rates on overdrafts up to £200.**

We also make ourselves very accessible, since we've more 24-hour cash tills than anyone else and more branches on or near campus. It will therefore come as no surprise that last year 41% of all new students opened an account with NatWest.

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NatWest Student Service Application Form.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____
Other names _____
Home address _____
Name and address of College/University _____
N.B. For your convenience your account will be opened at the branch nearest to your college address.
Course _____ Length of course _____

Term-time address _____
Tick if statements and other correspondence to be sent to term-time address ☐
Signature _____
Extra specimen signature _____
Date of birth _____ Grant p.a. £ _____

If any of the above details are not available please write "not known". To ensure that your account opening form receives the prompt attention it deserves, post it, no stamp required, to: The Student Service Manager, National Westminster Bank PLC, FREEPOST, Moulton Park, TW4 5BR. We will drop you a line within one week of receiving your application.

NatWest The Action Bank

How to break a track record

"At its best, students in higher education learn, often in a flash, that they can have ideas of their own," says Professor Martin Trow. "They can have ideas at variance with the conventional wisdom, at variance with those of their teachers and even, possibly, ideas that no one else has had before."

Conceiving and developing original ideas, questioning received opinions, absorbing knowledge and acquiring analytical skills - these are the activities which lie at the essence of higher education.

At the start of their courses, most 18-year-olds do not fully realize this. But three or four years spent on any respectable course should transform the enthusiastic but naive fresher into a more rigorous and intellectually sophisticated graduate.

The process may be painful. But if the wider society is to be renewed and gain benefit from its investment in higher education, universities must be centres of activity which hum, and sometimes whine, with the sound of innovation.

Increasingly, however, intellectual growth is not enough.

Gone, almost entirely, are the days when a degree meant

once students do opinion polls for the BBC and computer-science students offer a consultancy service to local firms. By the time a Kingston student goes for his or her first job, they will already be experienced in working on real-life projects to real deadlines, and to real budgets.

As Robert Smith, a polytechnic principal, says: "My aim is to make our students more marketable. The result is that Kingston graduates have become known as doers. They get into industry and get on with the job. They're good at what they do because they are brisk and effective."

Similar reports come from the Dorset Institute of Higher Education where, for example, students on the media and communication courses get the chance of working on radio stations during term. The more enterprising turn these contacts to good account by returning and working further on the stations during the vacations.

It is up to each individual student to decide exactly how much effort to put into this kind of activity. Allocating priorities is part of becoming an adult and there is always the opportunity to do the minimum and just get by. The

Employers are keen to give students experience of work practice in vacation

a period of respite away from the world and its pressures. The freedom and latitude offered to students is now seen as an opportunity for them to experiment with new responsibilities - not an opportunity to evade them.

As Professor Trow, who comes from the University of California, comments: "In Britain the nature of higher education is to educate leadership. And the elitism of British higher education (intellectual if not entirely social) means that employers have come to regard it as the main source of their future managers."

Can higher education provide that?

Most worthwhile institutions - polytechnics and institutes of higher education as well as universities - are working overtime to provide their students with opportunities to become involved positively with all manner of realistic projects.

In the case of most vocational subjects such as applied science, engineering, technology and design (in everything from buildings to beach wear) the thrust now is on collaboration with outside partners.

Sandwich courses especially, if properly structured and supervised, can provide a short-cut to real improvement and an insight into the way industry and commerce work in practice.

Many employers - including, for example, law firms - are more than happy to open their doors to students during the vacations to give an insight into what goes on. What's more, if you are astute enough, you can make contacts which will stand you in good stead when it comes to getting a job.

At Kingston Polytechnic, for example, fashion students undertake projects for the retail chain Next, social-ci-

ences are that you will still get your degree and find some employer somewhere to take you on.

But if you are ambitious to get into a career fast lane, your potential employers will want to probe behind the degree qualification and penetrate your motivation and capability. Doing enough to get by does not mean much these days. To stand out, you need to have done more.

Once students used to join endless societies as some sort of evidence of their breadth of interest. But breadth of interest in itself delivers no goods. Running a society, looking after its accounts, boosting its membership, cutting its costs, organizing an exhibition of new work or planning a group visit to the Middle East - these are things that count.

Even those who have chaired student societies are not immune from being cut to ribbons by a determined interviewer. If all you have done is kept the Kent University Haggis Appreciation Society ticking over, you are in danger of appearing lame and ineffective. An employer wants to see that you organized a first-ever Burns Night ball, attracted sponsorship from the Royal Bank of Scotland, won advertising from Scottish Widows and persuaded Billy Connolly to be the guest celebrity.

There may be no single blueprint for how to use your time in higher education but there is a growing understanding that three or four years in the intellectual hothouse offers a chance to build a track record of achievement in more than just examinations.

So try to ensure that when you look back at the end you have more to show for your time than just a bundle of essays.

Edward Fennell

RACING: FORM BOOK SUGGESTS COVENTRY STAKES WINNER SHOULD HAVE THE EDGE IN DONCASTER'S BATTLE OF THE UNBEATEN COLTS

Always Fair to halt Waring's fine run

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

Always Fair is my choice to win the Coventry Stakes at Doncaster today and thus keep his 100 per cent record at the expense of Waring, the other unbeaten runner in the field.

My line of thinking takes the Coventry Stakes, run at Royal Ascot in June, the Coventry Stakes at Doncaster and the 37 Phoenix Stakes in Ireland.

Always Fair won the Coventry by a length from Oakworth with Digamist five lengths further behind in

fourth place. The Richmond home 1½ lengths ahead of Bellefleur.

Afterwards Digamist, Oakworth and Bellefleur all travelled to Dublin where they finished first, second and fifth respectively, Digamist turning the tables on Oakworth with the aid of a visor.

While conceding that Waring beat Bellefleur much more easily than the judge's verdict might suggest, I still feel that the form line, through Oakworth in particular, gives Always Fair the edge.

Since Royal Ascot my selection has looked good at York where he won the Acomb Stakes by three lengths from three previous winners.

Today's programme on Town Moor can begin with a double for Luca Cumani and Ray Cochrane via Indus (2.0) and Media Starguest (2.35). Following victories at Pontefract, Lingfield and Chesham, Indus looks poised to beat Balabina in the Sun Princess Stakes.

With Russian Rover, Timefighter, Water Boatman and Wolsley all standing their ground, Media Starguest undoubtedly has more on his

plate in the Troy Stakes. Nonetheless, he is my nap.

I find it highly significant that, following that four-length success at Windsor last month, Media Starguest was today required to give all four weight in a handicap whereas today's race enables him to meet them at level weights. Also, Cumani has a good line on Wolsley through Knocknack.

Following that good run at Haydock a week ago when he was beaten a length and a half by Crystal Moss, Ballydowry now looks poised to go one better in the Mecca Book-

makers Handicap. Crystal Moss herself travels to Goodwood where I fancy her chance of winning the Excel Plus Handicap.

The Scottish Equitable Select Stakes, which is the main race on the west Sussex track, looks the ideal opportunity for Most Welcome to win a prize he so richly deserves after making Reference Point pull out all the stops in the Derby.

Since then, very soft ground has brought about his downfall in both the Irish Derby on the Curragh and the Matchmaker International at York.

Set Pattern looks filly with bright future

Set Pattern looked a high-class filly when making a winning debut in the second division of the EBF Quinlan Maiden Stakes at Salisbury yesterday.

Royal trainer Ian Balding admitted that he was as surprised as anyone when Set Pattern came from last to first to beat the rank outsider Loving by two lengths.

"She's done nothing at home," Balding said. "I thought it would be much too firm for her and nearly didn't run her."

I trained her dam Flamenco and she was the first of only three to get her first daughter. The favourite, Baby Marie, was never able to make any impression on the leaders and finished a well-beaten fifth.

Tony Clark replaced Greville Starkey on the well-regarded filly in the first division of the maiden and Gay Harwood's newcomer, Indus, won by 11-5, provided Clark with his eleventh winner of the season.

Clark was drawn on the outside and kept the filly there giving her a nice look down the course as Railward forced the pace. He produced a fine lead entering the final furlong and she scored by two lengths.

Clark explained the riding arrangements: "I was always going to come to Salisbury but Greville was down to ride here because we were sure that Sadecan was going to run at Doncaster."

Clark was wintered, who fractured his skull in a fall at his Lambourn home on Saturday night, is still in a "stable" condition and is expected to be in the stable on Monday, is "improving" in Cumberland Infirmary.

Conditional jockey David Wynn, who fractured his skull in a fall at his father's stables on Monday, is "improving" in Cumberland Infirmary.

Dawn's Delight lands Portland for second time

Dawn's Delight is firmly on target to join Reuben and Jon George in the select company of horses who have landed the double of the Portland Handicap and the Gold Cup after winning Doncaster's £20,000 feature for the second time yesterday.

Patiently ridden by Michael Wigham, Ken Ivory's nine-year-old gelding, Dawn's Delight, in the last furlong to beat Powder Blue by a half a length. Umbelata, the 10-1 favourite for next week's running of Scotland's richest handicap, finished only three parts of a length away third.

Mick Naughton, Umbelata's trainer, was in confident mood afterwards. "I couldn't have been more pleased if he'd won," he said. "The ground was all against him and he meets the winner on 31b better terms next Friday. He's a certainty."

Dawn's Delight, having his 88th run in seven seasons for Ivory, was bought by the trainer for only 500 guineas as a foal. "He's a bit funny in his box but he's a lovely old character outside," said the rightly exuberant handler.

"I don't want to overdo it but he's got to have a go in the big one. He'll be raised about a stone in future handicaps."

Dawn's Delight was winning his 16th race.

In the £40,000 Kiveton Park Stakes, Cash Asmusen's three-year-old gelding, Dawn's Delight, was bought by the trainer for only 500 guineas as a foal. "He's a bit funny in his box but he's a lovely old character outside," said the rightly exuberant handler.

"I don't want to overdo it but he's got to have a go in the big one. He'll be raised about a stone in future handicaps."

Dawn's Delight was winning his 16th race.

Guest Performer has certainly progressed by leaps and bounds since winning his first race at Leicester in July. The plan was to give him one more race in something like the Challenge Stakes at Newmarket and then send her to be trained by John Gosden in California, said the trainer. "But she is improving so fast that there might be another race or two in her first."

John Dunlop recently asserted after winning the Goodwood Cup with Seregeevich that small fields in long distance races provide a dual spectacle. The Arundel trainer could not have been proved more wrong than in the Doncaster Cup when Seregeevich finished fourth behind Buckley in one of the most exciting finishes ever seen.

"I should have had more use made of him," said the trainer. "He was done for speed in a slow-race race."

Ray Cochrane's golden touch has never been more in evidence than when producing Bailey with yet another immaculately timed late run to beat Sadecan by a neck after five horses had been in a chance of winning a furlong from home.

Yangtze-Kiang gained his fifth successive win in the space of four weeks when landing the William Grant Challenge Chase at Newton Abbot yesterday.

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DONCASTER

Selections

By Mandarini
2.00 Indus.
2.05 MEDIA STARGUEST (nap).
2.35 Indus.
3.40 Always Fair.
4.10 Ballydowry.
4.40 Kilmara.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.00 Indus.
2.05 Wolsley.
3.05 Ciren Jester.
3.40 Always Fair.
4.10 Ballydowry.
4.40 Harp Ralph.

By Michael Seely
3.05 Indus Charn. 3.40 ALWAYS FAIR (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.05 ISLAND CHARM.

Going: good Draw: no advantage
2.00 SUN PRINCESS STAKES (3-Y-O Fillies: £3,200: 1m 2f 50yds) (5 runners)
1 (1) 3021 BALABINA 28 (F) (A. J. Cumani) 9-7 Pat Eddery 87
2 (2) 4-111 INFAMY 11 (F) (L. J. Cumani) 9-7 Pat Eddery 87
3 (3) 1-111 INFAMY 11 (F) (L. J. Cumani) 9-7 Pat Eddery 87
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By Jack Waterman